

March 11, 2019

Hon. Joanne Comerford  
Joint Committee on Public Health  
State House, Room 70C  
Boston, MA 02133

Hon. John Mahoney  
Joint Committee on Public Health  
State House, Room 443  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: An Act Relative to End-Of-Life Options (H1926, S1208)**

Dear Chair Comerford, Chair Mahoney, and members of the Joint Committee on Public Health:

**Fenway Health would like to go on record IN SUPPORT of H1926, S1208, An Act Relative to End-Of-Life Options.**

Founded in 1971, the mission of Fenway Community Health Center is to enhance the wellbeing of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and all people in our neighborhoods and beyond through access to the highest quality health care, education, research and advocacy. Motivated by the belief that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, Fenway Health serves over 30,000 patients.

**An Act Relative to End-Of-Life Options** will affirm the right of a qualified terminally ill patient to obtain a prescription from his or her physician for medication that the patient may choose to self-administer for humane and dignified death.

In 1983, Fenway Health formed AIDS Action Committee to address the significant needs of people living and dying with HIV/AIDS. A large part of our mission historically was to help people experience a humane and dignified death. At one time, a HIV/AIDS diagnosis meant days, weeks, or months of debilitating conditions and excruciating pain before death. Treatment has significantly improved. Today, with support and access to care, people currently living with HIV/AIDS can expect to live long, happy, and healthy lives. Nonetheless, Fenway Health and AIDS Action Committee strongly support the right of those with terminal illnesses to have the opportunity to safely and legally access compassionate death with dignity that this bill would provide.

While our community was not afforded this option in the darkest days of the HIV epidemic, we stand with those today who would benefit from such an option.

For the reasons above, **Fenway Health urges you to report *An Act Relative to End-Of-Life Options (H1926, S1208)* favorably.**

Sincerely,



Carl Sciortino  
Vice President of Government and Community Relations  
Fenway Health