

in the past I have been opposed to legislation such as this, but because of the case that Senator Landis mentioned in Missouri, the Cruzan case, my attitude changed entirely. There comes a point when you have to determine whether or not people who are involved with a situation have a right to make a decision about their own situation. There were concerns I had about hospitals, doctors, other health care providers trying, perhaps, to evade responsibility for administering appropriate care by using one of these living wills as an escape hatch. All of those kind of arguments and concerns paled into insignificance when I saw the way people carried on in Missouri who were opposed to this lady being allowed to die. I even saw a broken-down bus come to the facility. People got off with trumpets and other noisemaking implements, and not only made a nuisance of themselves, but disturbed the peace of anybody within earshot. Senator Wesely correctly mentioned that there are some religious ramifications involved in this. Most of the people in this Legislature probably profess to be Christians, if they profess any religion at all, and they have the most remarkable example of a person choosing to die who did not have to die, who could not have even been killed, if it had been against his will to die, and that person was Jesus. In fact, he had a taunt hurled at him while he was in the process of dying. You say that you saved others, you say you are the son of God, you have something to do with whether a person will live or not, then show us. You come down off the cross and take us with you while you are at it. If there had been people existing at that time with the attitude that some people have in these times, they would not have allowed Jesus to die. They would have interposed their opinion and said, because I think that you ought to live out your life no matter how miserable it is, no matter what you think the purpose of your life is, then Jesus never would have died. And if he had never died, he'd still be around today, and if he were around today, he'd be a member of this Legislature. And if he were a member of this Legislature, he'd be counseling compassion. He'd be telling people to...there is a guy sitting to my immediate left who said that he is. Now the reason I know he is not, because if he is here, you won't know who he is and he won't tell you. He watches you without you knowing. People are on their best behavior. When the cat is around, the mice are not there. But the point I am getting to is this, death is a hard concept for people in this society to grasp. It is a hard reality to deal with. Most things are designed to try to perpetuate youth forever. There are all kinds of creams, lotions, elixirs. There are surgical procedures, hair implants.