



**TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND HUMAN SERVICES
BY DYMA B. WILLIAMS, RN, BSN, MJ, CPHRM,
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GOVERNOR JUAN F. LUIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER
April 13, 2021**

Good Morning Honorable Chairman Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services (“HHS”), Honorable Committee Members, Other Senators of the 34th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands present, and the listening and viewing audience, my name is Dyma B. Williams, RN, BSN, MJ, CPHRM, and I am the Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center (“JFL”).

Our understanding is that proposed legislation, Bill number 34-0028, which amends Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 37, subchapter III adding section 870 to authorize registered nurses and certified registered nurse practitioners employed by a certified home health agency, hospice, or nursing home to determine and pronounce death under certain specified conditions; and further requires the Department of Health to promulgate regulations to implement these changes.

JFL is not in opposition of this bill, directly, however, these changes to the Virgin Islands Code would not directly affect JFL as an acute care hospital, as we are not a certified

home health agency, hospice, or nursing home. We trust that our community health partners in hospice, nursing home and home healthcare entities will provide testimony that will ensure optimal care for Virgin Islanders who are terminally ill and/or dying, who need peace, comfort and dignity as they transition.

Conclusion

In closing, JFL thanks this body for taking a special interest in persons with life-limiting illnesses in their homes and the care systems that serve and care for them.

I want to thank Honorable Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services and the members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.