



CONNECTICUT CENTER
FOR PATIENT SAFETY
QUALITY HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT.

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee

Hello. My name is Susan Manganello. I am currently Vice President of the Board of Directors of the CT. Center for Patient Safety. My daughter Jennifer died in 2005 a result of medical error and neglect. I spent 7 years advocating for her health care needs and she still fell victim to a continuous web of medical mishaps. Doctors and other health care providers need to have accountability for their actions.

I am here today in opposition to Section 7 of bill 6600.

My daughter Jennifer became significantly disabled following a spinal fusion seven years ago. She was fifteen years old at the time and lived the last years increasingly disabled, a prisoner in her own body. As a result of her surgery she became primarily wheelchair bound and had very little endurance. or strength.

Secondary to the nerve damage along the thoracic and lumbar region of her spine, she suffered from a neurogenic bladder, chronic and recurrent urinary inflections and reflux from high pressure into the kidneys. Complications intensified and she was diagnosed with end-stage kidney disease. She required regular kidney dialysis and she did not tolerate the dialysis.

Since her original surgery, she had many multiple hospital stays from urinary tract infections, fractured hips, dialysis complications and two hospital stays were for suicidal depressions. There was no escape. Never to run again, work after school, never mind attending school on a regular basis. Who can put a value on that?

She could not work nor live independently. She felt she was a burden to our family and loved ones. Jennifer would see her siblings planning activities with friends and feel lonely and sad. She never had a choice for a normal life. She had to live every day fighting to stay alive.

Our healthcare system needs to be held accountable for the "care" it provides. I am here representing all of our members' constitutional right to our court system.

Where in this section of the bill is there any accountability for mistakes so horrible that a victim and his family's life are changed forever?