

**March 20, 2013**

**Testimony on Bill No. 6645**

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**Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on *An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients*.**

**We do not have a compelling personal story to tell. We do believe, however, that all of us deserve dignity in our final days. The Bill provides that for those who *choose* to fall under its provisions.**

**It offers choice for terminally ill patients who wish to end their suffering. According to the Bill, no health care provider or health care facility can be forced to participate in the process. In so stipulating, the Bill respects and honors the self determination of all involved.**

**By establishing strict guidelines for the administration of life ending medicine, the Bill minimizes the chances of abuse while providing the opportunity for a dignified death.**

**Even when such medicine is prescribed, experience reveals that it is not used in many cases. It does, however, provide the terminally ill person with an option that in itself may be palliative.**

**Both of us are in our seventies and hope for good health for many years to come, but when good health is no longer the case and diagnosis is terminal, we ask that you permit us the *choice* to decide how we wish to spend-- or end-- our final days.**

**Thank you.**