

Crosby, Richard

HB 6645

Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion on this proposed legislation. I have given this bill much thought and have come to the conclusion that the potential abuses and negative message we send to the youth of our state outweigh any benefits that can come out of having doctors assist people in killing themselves.

I believe there are those who would seek to gain from the suffering of others, any given day the news is filled with depraved actions, that we would not think possible. The risk of coercion or manipulation of people who feel as though they are an unnecessary burden to their family or the community is too great in my opinion. I believe the stress of having a terminal illness may cloud people's judgment and lead them to make a rash decision and go through with something they would regret later.

In addition, having the state condone and stating that suicide is legal will send a terrible message to teenagers in our state. I am the father of seven children two of which are teenagers now and one who will be a teenager later this year. This is a very difficult time in life for many and by approving this bill I believe we are sending a message that when things get tough or difficulties arise, the answer is to end it all. Many people will use the term die with dignity or other catchy phrases to try to justify passing this bill. I would ask that you consider the impact this will have on devaluing life in our state and the message it sends.

Thank you,

Richard Crosby

Harwinton, CT