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Public Health Committee
State of Connecticut
Hartford, CT

Madame Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathleen Sloan and I am a resident of West Hartford, CT. Professionally, I work as a human rights advocate and represent the National Organization for Women (NOW) at the United Nations. Given my passion for and many years of working for universal human rights, I am writing to you to urge your support for House Bill 6645, An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill. I strongly support this bill since I watched my father die, suffering and in agony toward the end of his life. If such a law had existed at that time, he would have been spared unimaginable pain and passed away in peace and with dignity. My mother, sister and I would not have grieved over our powerlessness to help him as he pleaded to be released from his suffering.

It is quite simply cruel to force a person with a terminal illness, no hope of recovery, improvement or any quality of life, to suffer for days, weeks and months when they have reached the end of their life. End-of-life decisions should be left to individual patients, not the government. It is wrong and unethical to punish physicians who ease the pain and suffering of mentally competent, terminally ill patients. I urge you to support HB 6645 for all the suffering people of Connecticut and their loved ones.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Kathleen Sloan