

To: The Public Health Committee, State of Connecticut

SB #991 – Advisory Council on Palliative Care

Friends:

As a long time oncology nurse and hospice advisor, I strongly support the concept of a pilot “MOLST” project. End of Life Care is a complex and challenging personal and public issue. The end of life care discussion should not be relegated to simply having an Advance Directive or a Do Not Resuscitate bracelet. These elements do not encompass the important and often delicate relationship between the medical provider and the family in times of extreme stress and urgency. We need to have a more comprehensive and inclusive process. This is the goal of having Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment. I strongly encourage the Public Health Committee to support this bill, which would launch a pilot project putting us in step with our nearby states.

MOLST is the standard of care for a number of states, including our neighbors in New York, and it has enabled a much more humane and ethical conversation by all involved parties coming to terms with often difficult decisions at the end of life. Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) also has guidelines to deal with different end of life scenarios such as health care proxies, adults with disabilities, children at the end of life etc.

We all die.. we all want our wishes to be adhered to by our medical providers and our families. MOLST will help all of us meet this goal.

In conjunction with this Bill, I would hope the Senate will attend to setting up an Advisory Council on Palliative Care. The multidisciplinary group of experts would explore a wide ranging approach to palliative care in an organized and systematic manner throughout Connecticut in all care settings (hospital, home, extended care facilities, prisons, VA units).

Thank you for your consideration.

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