

HB 6645

Madame Chairs, Vice Chairs, Ranking members and members of the Committee:

My name is Tim Appleton, Connecticut Organizer for Compassion and Choices, and have lived in South Windsor with my family for over 10 years. Thank you for this opportunity to speak tonight.

I would like to take a moment to offer some facts into the record this evening.

This is the Oregon Department of Health study that is published every year regarding Oregon's Death With Dignity Act, we will make available online for the Committee.

In the report it reflects that 97% of patients who took medication to end their life did so under the care of hospice.

Earlier today there were also some questions regarding patients who took end of life medication and did not die. According to this report only 6 patients in 15 years regained consciousness.

Further, in 15 years of medical practice, only 673 patients have hastened their life under this law, representing a mere .24% of those that die in Oregon.

64% of patients prescribed medication hastened the end of their life, while 36% did not take the medication. 81% of patients had cancer.

Finally, the independent Oregon Protection and Advocacy Organization for those with Disabilities is on the record stating there has not been a single case of misuse or abuse, as does this report from the Oregon Department of Health.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify this evening. Please vote in favor of House Bill 6645 An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill.

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