

**My Negative Response to H.B. bill no. 6645- An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients.** Co-sponsored by: Sen. Edward Meyer, 12th Dist. Rep. Philip J. Miller, 36th Dist.

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Response of Mike Klinger, CT:

**I am very much opposed** to the legislation found in **H.B. 6645**, which wishes to push Assisted Suicide on vulnerable patients in the state of Connecticut. My opposition to this bill is for many reasons. **First of all**, it is my humble impression that physicians take the Hippocratic Oath in order to protect patients' lives, and not to kill them. **Second**, when was suicide (or, assisting a suicide) ever a good thing for society, or the person, for that matter? Is it good for the person who kills him/herself, and never has a chance to regret that decision? Never. Is it good for the family and friends left behind, who have to pick up the pieces, of that person's selfish act? Never. Why would we entertain a bill that harms everyone, and helps no one? **Third**, patients whose lives are diminished or weakened deserve special help and respect from us, not the death penalty. Sick or handicapped persons should be helped to lead lives as normal as possible, not killed, or assisted to kill themselves in their vulnerable state. How sad a society becomes when we no longer care for the weak and ill in our society, but instead discard them, or help them discard their own lives, because we can't be bothered to care for them. **Fourth**, assisting a suicide, or suicide itself, is gravely contrary to love. It is an act of selfishness, which harms everyone involved. Assisting a suicide is gravely contrary to the just love we should have for another person's life, let alone our own life. It gravely contradicts the love of our neighbor that we should all possess. It unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity that a person has with their own family, nation, and other human societies to which they continue to have obligations. It is an act of pure selfishness, and not of love at all. Society can only be built up when we love one another, not harm one another. **Fifth**, this same proposal was recently defeated in Massachusetts. The statement that the Cardinal Archbishop of Boston, MA, gave regarding their Assisted Suicide bill is quite enlightening for us. He said, "If it's okay for parents to kill their children [through abortion]; it's okay for children to kill their parents [through euthanasia]." In other words, when does the moral madness end, in this slippery slope of the culture of death? Why do some state legislatures, like Connecticut, continue to push these agendas against human life? **Sixth**, only two states in the U.S. have passed this legislation, despite years and years of people trying. Those two states would be Oregon and the state of Washington. Why is this? If it is good legislation, wouldn't many more states have passed it by now? **Finally**, your job as public officials is not to determine when life begins or ends, that is "above your pay grade"; your job as public officials is to protect the citizens of the state of Connecticut and interpret our laws, not re-write them. Please focus on balancing our state budget, and not re-writing our laws. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Klinger, CT