

Mary Lou Peters  
March 20, 2013

To: CT Public Health Committee  
RE: HB 6645 An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill

Testimony in OPPOSITION

House Bill 6645 is a direct affront to each of us in this room and beyond these walls.

No human being should be so desperate as to wish to end his or her own life. As a society we have ways to address such desperation: we have palliative care to help those who are physically suffering and we have mental health care. Admittedly, we have not done enough to help the emotionally suffering and the mentally ill, but is killing these persons the answer? It would appear that it is becoming so. Is it not more compassionate to help them than to kill them?

Have we accelerated to a society of “quick fixes” in which it is more expedient to end a life than to take the time to save it? Prescribing death-dosage pills or other means of ending life, should not be labeled medical treatment simply because it is a cheaper option than life-saving treatment. Such horrific choices are being made in other states right now. Clearly we are becoming a society more prone to killing than healing, and Connecticut is in line for this latest atrocity.

Based on HB 6645, this is precisely where we are going.

I dare say not one of us here knows agony so exquisite that death seems more attractive than life. If we have experienced it, isn't our presence here proof of having chosen life? There are others here who can address cases of the terminally ill better than I, but having sat with my parents as they faced death, I personally can attest to the beauty and serenity of allowing the natural process.

This bill is one more step toward eliminating human life and opening the door to more ways in which the so-called “healthy” will determine who is fit to live and who is not.

Thank you for your time.

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