

## HB 6645

Dear Senator Doyle:

Senator Meyer proposed Senate Bill No. 48 to legalize Physician Assisted Suicide in Connecticut, followed by two other bills.

Your committee will consider this bill. If passed, all Connecticut citizens will have to live with it, and I have serious concerns.

In the Branford Seven, Senator Meyer says that "informed consent" is the main issue. "His bill will require 2 doctors to confirm the terminal nature of the illness and competency of the patient.... This 2 doctor approach will help eliminate any abuse by doctors working with mentally ill patients." Please see:

[http://www.branfordseven.com/news/state/article\\_44485116-5a7d-11e2-8151-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.branfordseven.com/news/state/article_44485116-5a7d-11e2-8151-001a4bcf6878.html)

In Oregon where assisted suicide is legal, there are well publicized cases including published doctor letters showing the 2-doctor approach failed to protect vulnerable patients -- including the chronically ill and disabled, and the elderly, such as:

When the second doctor does not approve PAS and the patient is killed anyway. See Dr. Bentz's case. [1]

When patient's heirs shop for pro-suicide doctors, as happened to Kate Cheney. [2]

When both doctors misdiagnose. Maryanne Clayton was told she had four months to live. She then went on a cruise to the Caribbean, to Hawaii, the Southwest, and the Grand Canyon [3]

When the state healthcare plan will not provide treatments to prolong life, as with Barbara Wagner. [4]

The 2 doctors failed to protect patients, showing this kind of a law is – in actuality -- too difficult and costly to monitor, manage, and enforce. Please investigate this and consider seriously whether this bill is developed enough for use.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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[1] Dr. Bentz's patient <http://www.wrtl.org/assistedsuicide/personalstories.aspx>

[2] Kate Cheney <http://www.wrtl.org/assistedsuicide/personalstories.aspx>

[3] Maryanne Clayton: <http://www.seattleweekly.com/2009-01-14/news/terminal-uncertainty/>

[4] Barbara Wagner <http://www.wrtl.org/assistedsuicide/personalstories.aspx>

[4] Video: <http://www.mofopolitics.com/2009/08/03/video-oregon-says-no-to-chemotherapy-offers-doctor-assisted-suicide/>

**Physicians for Compassionate Care**

[http://www.pccef.org/documents/Assisted\\_Suicide.brochure.pdf](http://www.pccef.org/documents/Assisted_Suicide.brochure.pdf)

