

## **HB 6645**

Dear Madame Chairs and member of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Douglas Wade and I live in Shelton, CT. I am providing testimony in support of House Bill 6645, An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill. My mother (Jewel) was diagnosed with Primary Lateral Sclerosis in 2001. This disease is very rare, but similar to ALS. Within two years, she was wheel chair bound and unable to speak. Her communication was limited to typing on a keyboard and scribbling notes as her arms and hands slowly atrophied as the disease progressed. My mother was a very proud and resilient woman. She carried on for seven years as the disease kept ravaging her body. Her mind remained sharp, but her body was shutting down. Over the next few years, Jewel lost the ability to swallow and had to take nourishment through a peg in her stomach. In her last two years, she had round the clock care at her home. A common cold would be a death sentence as she could no longer even cough. She had loving children and a wonderful husband caring for her. In late June, 2010, my mother requested her three children to her home. Jewel's husband had left that day to spend a week with his daughter in Chicago. We gathered together and Jewel told us that she had made a decision that she wanted to take control of her life. She was tired, she had fought this disease with everything she had. She had made up her mind that it was time to make her exit. She informed us that she was no longer going to take nourishment through her peg. My mom wasn't in a state of depression, she was simply not desiring to continue on knowing that her condition was only getting worse. She wanted to die on her own terms and not by choking to death. I was immensely proud of my mother for making this decision, but it was horrific watching her starve to death over the next thirty days. I know there is a more compassionate way to end your life and that's why I fully support this bill.

Respectfully,

**Douglas H. Wade Jr.**  
**President**

Wade's Dairy, Inc.  
1316 Barnum Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

T:(800) 247-9233  
F:(203) 696-6121

[doug@wadesdairy.com](mailto:doug@wadesdairy.com)