

Legislative Testimony

Public Health Committee

H.B. No 5326-An act concerning compassionate aid in dying for terminally ill patients

March 17, 2014

Alyssa D'Agostino

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Alyssa D'Agostino and I am a senior at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed bill H.B. No 5326-An act concerning compassionate aid in dying for terminally ill patients.

I do not support this bill because patients are not required to see a psychiatrist or counselor before obtaining the lethal drug. If a patient can be treated for depression and turn their life around, they should have that option. It should not be right to help any person with suicide. They are ending their life instead of getting an effective psychological care. Eligibility is based on a six- month life expectancy. But doctors agree these estimates are often wrong. Individuals outlive their prognoses by months or even years. HB 5326 will lead people to give up on treatment and lose good years of their lives.

Thank you,

Alyssa D'Agostino

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