

TO THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE WHO
WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO VOTE ON THE PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL,
HB5326 and SENATOR CLARK CHAPIN and REPRESENTATIVE JAY CASE

The motto, "MY LIFE, MY DEATH, MY CHOICE!", is one that the people who seek to promote this bill feel that someone who is faced with a life threatening diagnosis would be comfortable considering for themselves.

However, it is a very self-centered way of thinking and of disregarding how that person's decision to end his or her life might affect others who love him or her. For sure, I can tell you that 63 years ago, my father's decision to end his life has left me and his mother and my mother and my brother who have all since died but lived with such guilt. For me it has little diminished in all that time. I know what I could have and should have done that might have deterred him from the grief that possessed his thoughts.

Secondly, if this is such a kindness as the Compassion and Choices people who are pressing for this bill to become a reality in Connecticut with much money and out of state help would have voters think, why then, would a physician be encouraged to LIE when writing on the death certificate that the cause of death is not indeed suicide, but some pre-existing diagnosis like cancer or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis? If suicide is such a good thing, why hide the fact? Why not take credit for it? What good doctor has ever before done what is against his or her oath "TO DO NO HARM", as to be a star player in taking someone's life and then make a deliberate falsehood on a medical document? Who of us, or of our friends or family, might be convinced of this unnatural way to end one's days on earth? Death will be alive and well in Connecticut!

Since you legislators always work to fix problems that plague your constituents, please know that what we are dealing with in this bill, HB 5326 is pretty language that makes bad things sound not only good but preferable to common decency and that would eliminate the opportunity for us to assist someone in need of help.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Audrey Battista, 217 Walnut Street, Winsted, CT. 06098-1246