

Dear CT Lawmaker,

I am writing to all the members of the Public Health Committee to ask you to vote NO on H.B. 5326, the so-called "aid in dying" bill.

As an RN with 30+ years of experience I am shocked by the wording of this bill! Were the writers naive or calculating when they wrote such provisions as:

AT LEAST one witness to the signing of a request can be an heir or beneficiary; which ignores a potential situation where impartial witness/witnesses may be outnumbered– Sec. 3

- "A person familiar with the patient's manner of communicating" may speak for the patient – Sec. 1(4) This is completely in defiance of the legal requirement for interpretive services for the deaf, hearing impaired, foreign language speakers etc. required in any health care setting. An impartial interpreter is mandated as friends and family members at times have their own agenda and therefore may not provide accurate translation.

- Psychiatric consultation optional – Sec. 8(a); Sec. 10(6) This is completely inappropriate as people who are suffering from depression are more likely to seek suicide and when proper care of their mental health is provided, they rarely seek death.

- No requirement to make reports to the Department of Public Health.

- No requirement to conduct compliance audits

These last two provisions are designed to mask the true outcome of this law. The norm for proper medical care is to seek oversight to guarantee good results, not "hide the evidence".

- Establishes no independently verifiable means of revoking consent; can be verbal – Sec. 5(a)

This is a glaring problem and again serves to draw real concern as to the true goals of this law. It should be even easier to revoke this decision than to initiate it as the final final-outcome is irrevocable.

- Disposal of unused lethal drugs is on the honor system – Sec. 12

It boggles the mind to try to follow the line of reasoning that would recommend such a thing.

- American Medical Association's position is that assisted suicide is "fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer"; "difficult or impossible to control"<sup>16</sup>

For all these reasons and many more I urge you to vote NO on H.B.5326

Protect Dignity With Better End-of-Life Care, Not "Aid In Dying

Sincerely,

Ellen Pappalardo RN, IBCLC