

Merrily Kaplan HB 5326

Last year a 98-year-old friend and I drove from New Haven and spent a very long day in Hartford until our testimony in support of a related bill 8:30 AM to 10:30 PM waiting for our turn to offer testimony in support of a related bill concerning aid in dying.

We were disappointed that that bill did not make it out of committee but are heartened by its re-appearance this year with some sensitive revisions.

I again raise up our support in favor of HB 5326. It is reassuring to know that perhaps Connecticut resident will have similar rights as citizens in several other states, such as Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Montana.

Ten years ago, when my husband Stephen, at 52, faced the severe end stages of ALS, he desperately wanted to make decisions about the end of his own life. If we could have moved to Oregon, we would have. If Connecticut had allowed him to make his own decisions, his suffering would have been considerably eased.

I am here to honor Steve who would want others to have that choice he wasn't given. To choose exactly how they want to live -- as well as how long.

Most respectfully,

Merrily Kaplan
62 East Gate Lane Hamden, CT 06514
203-248-0379