

Nicholas & Sharon Christie H.B. No 5326

Legislative Testimony

Public Health Committee

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

Members of the Public Health Committee,

We are writing this letter in opposition to the proposed bill H.B. No 5326 -- An act concerning compassionate aid in dying for terminally ill patients.

The taking of life, even one's own, is intrinsically wrong. Legalizing assisted suicide would open a can of worms, opening the door for arbitrary decision-making as to when life is no longer valuable enough to live. When people are elderly and suffering, they can be easily controlled and manipulated, can quickly lose hope, feel despair, and most definitely become irrational and angry. This bill would exploit these symptoms, somehow legitimizing them as grounds for suicide.

Please consider the lack of logic and reason behind this argument. Its language *sounds* compassionate (aid in dying). Language can be powerful, and apparently enough to move our mainstream culture into thinking that it is at all morally acceptable to assist someone in terminating their own life because they are suffering.

I am not talking about the use of extraordinary means (feeding tubes, life support, etc.) This is about allowing people to choose death once they experience real suffering. This is an outrage. What ever happened to the value of suffering? Isn't suffering just part of life?

Rather than provide an easy way to give up, the role of society and government should be to provide support and comfort for the terminally ill in Connecticut. We should meet them in their suffering and bear it with them, as surely there is as much human dignity in suffering as there is in pleasure.

If passed, this bill will be abused almost immediately as a way for doctors, patients, and families to justify a multitude of unethical situations which will inevitably follow. The elderly will slowly become seen as 'disposable'

Will we ever be able to draw the line as to which case constitutes suicide and which case constitutes grounds for survival once we open this door?

Thank you for your time.

Nicholas & Sharon Christie
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