



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Slossberg, Representative Miller, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan and all Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am testifying today in opposition to HB 5326: An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients.

I have much experience with patients in Hospice care. I served as a trained and certified Hospice Volunteer. I spent much time with Hospice patients. The training was extensive: we were required to attend eight three hour sessions and then pass a test. Each session was taught by various professionals involved with Hospice care. One of the first things I was taught: be very careful what you say in front of a patient that is under a morphine drip and apparently unconscious. The reason for this is that the patient hears every word you say. I actually had one patient slap me five after I had talked to him. Unfortunately, he passed away three hours later.

One of the most troubling problems I had while volunteering was when families would come in to visit a patient and argue about what they would do with their estate (who would get the house, how would the furniture be distributed, how much money they are losing each day their parent was alive, and so on). Each time I would have to politely ask them to step outside and explain to them that the patient could hear what they said and instruct them to have such conversations outside.

A patient in Hospice care is allowed approximately six months of care. I have personally witnessed patients discharged from hospice after a few months go back to assisted living or nursing care and live on. We seem to forget that today's advanced medications and services relieve these patients from any pain or discomfort.

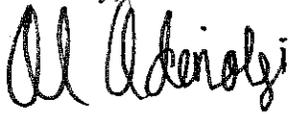
If any family member wants to selfishly end a patient's life, I am sure they could convince the patient or parent to take the necessary steps to pass on immediately. This is wrong, in this day and age new medications and cures come out every day. Isn't it possible that any of these

patients could be cured? In the last few years **15%** of the Wallingford Home Care Hospice patients have been discharged from hospice care and not sent to heaven.

During my time as a legislator; I have heard at debates on subjects like the death penalty, gun laws etc. **“If we can save one life this change in the law is worthwhile.”** The majority of the legislature voted to do away with the death penalty and toughen gun laws; I strongly recommend that you do not vote to let this bill go any further because you might cost us that one life and many more.

Thank you for allowing me the time to speak today.

Sincerely,



Al Adinolfi  
State Representative  
103<sup>rd</sup> District

