

Sybil Nassau

I wish I could have been there today, please accept this email testimony.
I am healthy and of sound mind.

25 years ago I wrote an editorial for the Hartford Courant regarding this very topic. I had just put a 16 year old dog to sleep, rather than allow her to suffer any longer. I also watched both of my parents die from the affects of Alzheimers disease. Then, recently, a dear friend committed suicide rather than suffer the incredible pain of dying from an incurable blood disease, which could no longer be managed by pain killers. And this is the sad truth. Not all diseases can be managed with pain killers when it comes to the end of life.

As wonderful as Hospice is, and they helped my late husband die with dignity, it is sometimes not the answer for everyone. Nor are pain killers, which may or may not work..

Life and Death are not always cut and dried decisions. One size does not fit all. While this is both a religious and moral dilemma for most of us, it is also an ethical dilemma. As one who has signed the papers regarding my end of life decisions, I would like to be able to add, legally, besides "not being kept alive by artificial means", the "ability to end my life with dignity if it should come to that" . One more sentence, yet it carries tremendous weight.

I think we need to ask the question: why is this person being kept alive? If a disease is incurable, end stage, incredibly painful, for whose sake? for family? for the patient? Once that question can be answered honestly, I think the decision becomes more clear..

I am a senior citizen with more years behind me than ahead of me. Yet, if this happen to me, I fervently believe it should be my decision alone what to do with my body. After all, it is MY body, my life. I do not belong to the government or anyone else. And no religious order is going to make that decision for me.

I would hope the State of Connecticut sees fit to join with the other states who recognize the time has come for this Bill to be passed-- with the proper language, of course.

Sybil Nassau
Old Saybrook, CT
860-399-3410

