

March 17, 2014

To: Public Health Committee

Re: Testimony Against HB 5326

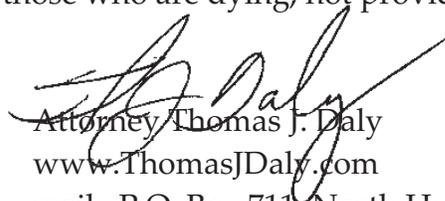
I am an attorney licensed in the state of Connecticut for almost twenty-nine years.

My practice includes serving as conservator for poor, sick, elderly and disabled persons. I am also the father of disabled children.

I respectfully submit that these people would be subjected to abuse and coercion regardless of proposed safeguards in the proposed legislation. Many of these vulnerable people will feel an obligation to die. They will end their lives prematurely, when they are not necessarily ready, to avoid becoming a burden on their families and to society.

Also, the proposed physician-assisted suicide will forever transform the role of physician from one who preserves life to one who takes life. This will lead to a speedy deterioration of the physician-patient relationship, which will adversely affect the entire health care system. It will destroy the time-honored role of the doctor as a healer who will "do no harm."

The law should be promoting the good that we are all stewards of life. True compassion calls us to embrace those who are dying, not provide them with the means to end their lives.



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