

My name is Charlotte Meyers and I am a resident of Enfield, CT. I am vehemently opposed to the Bill HB5326. History shows that wherever euthanasia has been practiced, the abuses and unintended consequences have been many. There is no reason in today's world why a person cannot receive good pain management to alleviate or prevent suffering. My brother died of cancer. The regiment provided by the Cancer Centers of America allowed him to die pain free. In order to achieve this attainable goal, we must look to better healthcare procedures and up-to-date methods in all our hospitals to eliminate suffering with a special scrutiny to Connecticut hospitals. We must also look at the elderly population and whether they can be intimidated or manipulated by various persons, sometimes family, weary of their responsibilities or with an eye on an inheritance. I became aware of these attitudes when I worked for the Little Sisters Of The Poor. In contrast, I became aware of medical care delivered with optimism and kindness which significantly improved the condition of the most seriously ill. Encouragement, continued effort, and research is the answer to every patient's need. Our doctors must oppose any action that distracts us from the reality that life is meaningful and purposeful even to the last moment of natural death.

Finally, I want to tell you about my friend, Sam: terminally ill and close to the end of his life with liver cancer. He asked his wife to bring him a Bible wrapped as a gift for a nurse who had been very kind to him. The young woman had lost hope in her own life, but after reading a few pages of the gift so lovingly given, she regained hope and the will to live. Sam died shortly thereafter knowing that he had turned a life around--another reminder that life is meaningful and purposeful even to the last moment of natural death.

I thank you for reading my testimony. I don't have an email address, therefore, I am sending you this testimony via my daughter's email address. My phone number is (860) 741-0276 or you may contact me via my daughter's email.