

Helen Pearl

**Testimony in Support of HB 5326 - To be Delivered in Person
An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill**

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To: PHC.Testimony@cga.ct.gov

As I age, death and dying have become more and more of a frequent experience among my pears, more and more of a concern for myself.

After careful consideration, I am here to say that when the time comes, I do not Now know what I might do but I do know that, baring instantaneous unconscious or death, I VERY, VERY STRONGLY wish that it be my choice it be MY CHOICE as to when and how to die.

Among multiple activities, I run two separate book discussion groups, one of which met this past Tuesday, March 11, 2014 to discuss a popular novel called ME BEFORE YOU by JoJo Moyes, which is about a quadriplegic who wants to die and a caretaker who dedicates herself to trying to convince him to change his mind.

The readers in attendance at the discussion unanimously agreed that the decision should be up to him and that it made sense in the situation as written.

Advocating for a right to decide for myself, so long as certain criteria and safeguards are satisfied, does not in any way impose a particular outcome on anyone else.

Enacting HB 5326 would protect the prescribing physician and enable you to retain your own right to decide for yourself when you become terminally ill; I simply am asking for the same privilege for myself.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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