

Rev. Roberta Scheider

H.B. 5326 Legalizing Physician-Assisted Suicide

Does the State of Connecticut really want to promote death by legalizing what a doctor can do to hasten it?

Legalizing physician-assisted suicide is antithetical to what it means to be a physician. By definition, according to Miriam-Webster, a physician is: a person skilled in the art of healing; *specifically* : one educated, clinically experienced, and licensed to practice medicine... Aware that the Hippocratic Oath is virtually meaningless today and that medical ethics continue to evolve, the baseline description of what a physician has been educated and trained to do is to practice the art of healing, not helping to take a life.

The proposed Bill promotes control for the person who wants to end their life *and* the one helping them. Are you aware that some people (who may be control freaks) just want to be in control of when they die? Should we make it legal for a physician to support that? Some people who are no doubt in pain, simply fear the loss of dignity, or perhaps embarrassment, of losing bladder control. Should we make it legal for a physician to support that?

The real need of people in pain is support and understanding to eliminate the desire to hasten their death. A physician could provide this support and advocacy for *life* according to their calling.

