

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Ranking members Kissel and Rebimbas, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Susan R. Cavanna. I am a Plainville Democrat testifying in favor of House Bill 7015, AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS.

Both my parents died of terminal illness. One three months after diagnosis, the other six months after diagnosis. BUT, and here is the big but was ready and willing to go sooner. Further, was competent to make a decision as to having a choice in how her life could and should end.

This bill is about aid in dying; as importantly, it is about having the CHOICE to have aid in dying. In general, of the three states that have approved similar legislation, only a minute percent of the population has chosen to actually follow through on an aid in dying choice. There is much concern that abuses will be seen with the elderly, poor, disabled and mentally ill. This has not shown to be the case as safeguards have been built into the Washington, Oregon and Vermont laws as are built into H.B. 7015.

Both of my parents used Hospice and palliative care. There comes a point when the thin line between not enough pain medication and to much medication equals the thin line between life and death. How is that different from deciding for yourself when you want that dose to occur? Finally, we all have the potential to be terminally ill, we all should have the choice to decide how our lives will end.

Sincerely,

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