

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Olga Fernandez <fermar13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 1:18 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: fermark13@yahoo.com
Subject: Fw: Please Vote NO on SB 668, Assisted Suicide

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas. Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Juan Fernandez. I live in Waterford representing myself and wish my comments be included in the record for this Public Hearing March 18, 2015 against this proposed legislation, An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients.

Connecticut is at a crossroad with lives hanging in the balance with the introduction of this Assisted Suicide Bill. At a time your Connecticut constituents are struggling with day to day family needs, imperiled jobs in a bad economy, changes to school dynamics and changes in society, our elected representatives in Hartford are overreaching their responsibility enacting a law guaranteeing our last day on earth will be imperiled by the heartless process to end human life for sake of expediency. "Dignity" and "suffering" are terms manipulated to justify suicide. Life has many undignified moments one must get across as best one can. Pain is one signal nature built in to help survive. Dying is the culmination of the process started at birth, also messy, undignified and painful to the individual and surely to the mother giving us life. Hunger is a more dreadful condition in Connecticut that we and this committee should be discussing here today. Sadly, "rational man" influencing another with dying is an affront to world order the Creator ordained in the beginning.

Please vote NO on HB 7015, which is misnamed "Aid in Dying" but is actually a bill to legalize Assisted Suicide in Connecticut. Please also lets oppose any other bill that legalizes Assisted Suicide. Connecticut should not license doctors to prescribe suicide medications as a treatment. The Connecticut Medical Association, Connecticut Hospice Association, State Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities and many other people, conservatives and progressives alike, testified against legalizing Assisted Suicide for the last two years.

Assisted Suicide IS BAD PUBLIC POLICY that puts vulnerable populations at risk. It is a recipe for elder abuse and dangerously empowers the system. In Oregon, patients desiring treatment under the Oregon Health Plan have been offered Assisted Suicide instead. A recent case in the news that suggested unavailable suicide legislation in California causing a patient to move to Oregon sadly to terminate her life should not be an argument for Connecticut adopting suicide legislation.

AND one last thing.....contrary to what Assisted Suicide advocates claim, no one can be assured that ingesting suicide medication will not be painful, stressful and demeaning . In Texas, Missouri, Utah, where the death penalty has been carried out, there is a clamor for suspending executions after many lethal executions were obviously long and painful. The SCOTUS decided executions can't result in cruel and unusual punishment. How can we as a society want this injustice for one of our terminally ill family members? Recent polls in Connecticut intending to represent the people's general opinion could not be more misleading. Most respondents possibly have not given full weight to this issue. I am convinced most would never accept this method of dying for a family member or relative.

Please do not let Connecticut go down this harmful path. Please vote NO on HB 7015, the Assisted Suicide Bill.

I appreciate your time reading my comments and hope you share them with other members of the Judiciary Committee who perhaps haven't received sufficient responses from their constituents. I am forever grateful. Also, my wife joins me in support of my comments.

Sincerely,

Juan Fernandez
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