

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Dr. George Geysen <drgeysen74@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 11:04 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: SUPPORT FOR HB 7015

From birth, a person's beliefs are shaped by choices made for them based on medical factors, a parent's behavioral philosophy, and a family's religious values. Society then takes over: educators, peers, media and authority figures. This continues until the human is considered responsible for making individual choices reflecting their own beliefs about their life. Where will I live, work or attend school? Who do I love and how? What are my religious beliefs? Why? With whom will I spend my life? Will I marry who I love? Can I?

HB 7015 - *An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients* provides for and protects an individual's freedom to choose with regard to, perhaps, the most vital matter in their life they will ever consider: how they will die and when. HB 7015 - *An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients* insures the legal protection for a person to have the right to the last measure of control, self-respect and dignity they may ever have – should they choose it for themselves.

Like many Connecticut citizens, I have watched a family member suffer through months of a debilitating medical illness, slowly and surely losing qualities of personhood, self-determination and self-respect that normally make a life worth living. HB 7105 provides and protects an individual's right to decide for themselves what they want for their bodies at this stage of life.

Passing HB 7015 **does not** mean an individual can be coerced, compelled or otherwise bound to make any decision they do not want to. HB 7015 provides a legally protected choice for a competent, medically diagnosed terminally ill person with the ability to decide how they wish to live out the final days of their life. Passing HB 7015 also means that a person retains their right **not to** choose to end their life with the assistance provided by a medical professional.

Please vote **in support of HB 7015**.

Respectfully,

Dr. George Geysen
74 New London Turnpike
Glastonbury, CT 06033
(860) 633-0703
drgeysen74@gmail.com

Dr. George Geysen
ChangePoint, LLC
74 New London Turnpike
P.O. Box 799
Glastonbury, CT 06033

www.changept.com

(860)633-0703 - Telephone

(860)633-1741 - Facsimile

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