

1 Farm Rd

Sherman

CT 06784

March 13, 2015

Public Health Committee

Rm 3000, Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Member,

I write this letter to you all to express my concern in regards to Senate Bill 668, Physician Assisted Suicide. As a Hospice Nurse I have watched and helped many patients die peacefully surrounded by their family and loved ones. It is a beautiful experience and should not be filled with fear and anxiety. Suicide is a horrible way to die and yes it is on your terms but normally happens in situations where severe depression and/or anxiety take over and consume the person. I've often asked my patients which is better, to die suddenly like on 9/11 or is it nice to have some time to prepare and say all the things that need to be said? They have all agreed that having time is a gift. There are medicines to alleviate pain and suffering and also to help with anxiety or depression as one approaches death. There comes a point where the patient embraces the experience and is at peace, something that could not happen with suicide!

Playing God in someone's life is unethical and has no place being decided by state legislators. I pray that you will come to terms with the magnitude of controlling how someone dies and decide to not consider Physician Assisted Suicide.

Yours Sincerely ,

Marie Hatcher,

EX-Hospice Nurse at Mid Fairfield Hospice and Regional Hospice.