

**Testimony Before the Judiciary Committee in OPPOSITION to HB 7015 Which is Scheduled for a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 18, 2015.**

Assisted suicide is a subject that has come up before this Legislative body during the last several sessions and it has not been passed. Assisted suicide has its fervent supporters as well as those who would not support public regulation in this sensitive area. Assisted suicide presents a dilemma for physicians who are trained to save lives, not take them. And, we already have a MOLST pilot project in process that is meant to make end of life conversations with physicians mandatory and comprehensive so that the individual who is predictably terminal may have questions answered and options discussed. Let's let the MOLST project get off the ground and have time to evaluate its effectiveness and see if MOLST enhances end of life care through education and the personal touch.

Look at Belgium and the Netherlands. They started out like Oregon with its assisted suicide, well meaning and person centered. Now, if you are a resident in one of these countries, you can legally commit suicide if you have constant ringing in the ears, if you are depressed, if you have lost interest in living. And, most recently, assisted suicide is now available to disabled children. That is a long way from where these two countries started and the circle of acceptability continues to grow.

For many citizens, all life comes from God and this Divine Being is the one who sustains that life. Do we as humans know better than the Creator? Are we aware of the next breakthrough in medicine or the possibility of remission that will all of a sudden take place? Are we ready to substitute finite man for Divine Wisdom? What if we are wrong about a terminal state? We cannot bring that patient back to life if we have made an error!

Assisted suicide is not a program whose time has come. It is a proposal that should be relegated to a much lower priority and allowed to die in Committee. Let us get on with governing the great State of Connecticut!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Submitted by Ken Hugo, Special Projects Coordinator, Elim Park Baptist Home in Cheshire.