

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

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To: JudTestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 7105

March 17, 2015

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 7105 that is currently up for a public hearing.

My family and I fully support dying in dignity and have watched my father, an Alzheimer's patient, receive that support from his caregivers and the wonderful people at Connecticut Hospice. He received hospice care at home for the last year of his life. My mother received support, guidance and a shoulder to cry on throughout the process. He spent his final days in Branford surrounded by his family. The nursing staff walked the final journey with all of us.

Rather than pass this bill give more funding to those organizations that do care for the terminally ill. Allow Title 19 funds to be used for home health care for the terminally ill. There could be pressure put on the dying to take the lethal drugs rather than burden their family with the cost of care. In a civil society, the focus should be on reducing the financial and emotional burdens on the gravely ill and their families. It should not be to put in place a law that opens the door to abuse on our most vulnerable citizens.

Connecticut is the Birthplace of America's hospice movement. Let us be known for how well we care for our terminally ill patients by getting the word out on how wonderful our hospice system works. Hospice is truly allows a patient a death with dignity that is pain free.

I strongly oppose HB7015

Betsy Kessler

Killingworth