

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

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Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:25 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: written testimony opposing HB 7015

TESTIMONY for the JUDICIARY COMMITTEE on HB 7015

Submitted by Bill Knight

My name is Bill Knight, and I am submitting written testimony on raised bill 7015. If this raised bill were to become law, it would allow doctors to aid people who are terminally ill in the ending of their life. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to this raised bill.

Though I'm sure that there are supporters of this proposed legislation who will tell you that favorably reporting this raised bill out of committee is the compassionate thing to do. However this is unnecessary.

Individuals who are terminally ill already have the right to refuse medication that will prolong their life. If the supporters of this raised bill are concerned about the availability of medication for pain, pain medication including palliative medication.

So why would Connecticut residents choose to end their life in this manner. When residents of Washington State, and Oregon, which are the states this raised bill is modeled after, the reason for doing so was not because of the pain they were experiencing. Most of the people who answered this question said that they didn't want to be a burden to their family members and other care givers.

Another reason that was cited by people contemplating ending their life with the assistance of a doctor was the lack of insurance. In an era where more decisions regarding medication is made by insurance companies, rather than by doctors, some patients are denied medication on the basis of its cost. It has also become more difficult for people to participate in clinical studies of medication that might prolong a person's life expectancy. One reason for this is the expense of clinical trials and that grants that would pay for these trials are not as available as they once were.

It is for these reasons that I am opposed to raised bill 7015. If and when a vote is taken on this proposed legislation I urge its rejection in the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit written testimony on this important and emotionally charged issue.