

To: Sen Eric Coleman, Rep William Tong, and members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Pam Lucashu, Durham CT

Re: Testimony in opposition to HB 7015

I ask you to vote against HB 7015, entitled by its authors “An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients,” but better known as the Assisted Suicide bill.

We already have aid in dying for terminally ill patients: hospice and palliative care. This year’s version of the Assisted Suicide bill remains the worst choice in public policy- not only for those who are dying, but for those who are living.

Proponents argue that assisted suicide is a matter of personal choice—an opportunity to control the means and timing of one’s death, as though there is no repercussion to the community in that choice. In fact the opposite is true. The repercussions are reflected in the consequences observable in those states- and countries- where assisted suicide exists:

~denial of Medicaid benefits for treatment for Barbara Wagner and Randy Stroup in Oregon while telling them their insurance would pay for assisted suicide<sup>1</sup>

~euthanasia now permitted in Belgium for children<sup>2</sup>

~increase in overall suicide rate in those areas where assisted suicide is legal<sup>3</sup>

Personal choice is an illusion in assisted suicide. We can see the clear progression from *choice* for those who wish to end their own life, to *control* by others who wish to end the lives of the disabled, the elderly, the young, and anyone else whom some “professional” deems to have inferior value. For the sake of our community and ourselves, we must value every life.

Please vote No on HB 7015.

Respectfully,

Pam Lucashu

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/4736927/Right-to-die-can-become-a-duty-to-die.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-belgium-parliament-passes-law-allowing-children-to-be-euthanized>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/news/2010news/2010-0909a.pdf>