

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Thomas MacGregor <trmacgregor@snet.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:21 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Sen. McLachlan, Michael
Subject: Senate Bill 668

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

It is with grave concern that we are writing to you, the members of the Judiciary Committee of the CT state legislature, about Senate Bill 668 "An Act Providing a Medical Option of Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Adults", i.e., physician-assisted suicide. As retired health care professionals and concerned senior citizens, we strongly oppose this proposed legislation and ask you to do the same.

Most individuals facing a devastating illness that has been classified "terminal" are seeking true compassion, family support, loving care, effective pain control, if necessary, and spiritual peace. In place of enacting a law that would open the door to potential abuse of the elderly, the infirm, and the seriously ill, more effort needs to be applied toward improving and expanding the existing systems of support, including pain management, palliative care, hospice care, and nursing home staffing, for those with serious, life-ending illnesses.

Physician-assisted suicide would focus not on compassion towards the suffering patient but on eliminating the person and the perceived problem. How can a physician who promises to "first do no harm" reconcile prescribing a lethal dose of medicine for the purpose of ending a human life with the Hippocratic oath he/she swears to uphold upon becoming a medical doctor? A pharmacist takes a similar oath. How would we as a society make the decision as to who should die or live? What ramifications would passage of physician-assisted suicide have for the future? Would third parties decide when enough had been spent for care of the elderly or terminally-ill patient and mandate assisted suicide? Who can determine for certain that an individual has six months or less to live? There are many examples in the media of individuals, given death sentences based on laboratory tests, who lived for years and were ultimately declared 'cured'.

Again, we strongly urge each of you to oppose the legislation in Senate Bill 668.

Sincerely,

Linda J.M. MacGregor, R.Ph., M.S. Pharm.

Thomas R. MacGregor, Ph.D.

Danbury, CT