

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Michelle Maitland <mmaitland1@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 1:30 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: HB7015 Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients - IN FAVOR

Dear Honorable Judiciary Committee members,

Please accept this testimony submitted IN FAVOR of this bill.

I would like to register my support for **H.B. 7015 An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients**. I am fortunate I don't have a compelling personal story about this issue, rather, I feel my value is as a representative of the general public.

Simply put, I feel we treat aging family pets with more dignity than we do those with terminal illness. How many people have said of a choice to put a beloved pet down-- "*We just didn't feel it was right for him/her to suffer.*"

And yet, individual adults with *a voice*-- and who with a sound mind may express a desire for the same relief-- are denied the option.

In 2012, a bipartisan poll of 600 CT residents by American Viewpoint & Momentum Analysis showed that, across a variety of questions, **the majority** of respondents **consistently** favored the concept of choice in end of life care *and* support of doctor assisted aid in dying.

And here we are, not with a conceptual poll, but an actual Bill-- AN OPPORTUNITY.

We all know there are many absurdities in life and death. But this disparity is one you have the power to address. You can and should show your capacity for compassion by passing this Bill. It would not be 'playing God' any more than the entirety of modern medicine already does.

This legislation is thoughtful and well-crafted. It has been worked on over multiple sessions and been repeatedly improved. It is appropriately narrow in scope and has strong safeguards. Also, to allay any 'slippery slope' fears, all you need do is look to the other states where Aid in Dying is an authorized practice, and you'll find the process works as intended, and has not been subject to abuse.

HB 7015 would provide great peace of mind to terminally ill adults approaching life's end. I am no expert but I know many people who share my opinion. We offer this solace to our cats and dogs, I urge you to have us do so for ourselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Note: I also plan to present my views on Wednesday at the public hearing and apologize for any duplication.

Sincerely,
Michelle Maitland, Niantic, CT