

## Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

---

**From:** suzi piening <piening@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 6:56 AM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Cc:** Sen. McLachlan, Michael  
**Subject:** Bill 7015

Good morning

My name is Susan Piening, I am writing to ask you to **defeat** the bill 7015 “An act concerning aid in dying for terminally ill patients.” Over a year ago my step-father was in the end stage of battling bladder cancer. He was 90 years old, his body was frail, his mind was sharp and he was in excruciating pain and terrified. He wanted to die so he stopped eating. I believe if “physician –assisted suicide” was legal in North Carolina he would have asked for it. Fortunately for him and our family it was **not**, but what was available was Hospice and palliative care.

He worked with an amazing group of people from Hospice, who were able to get his pain under control and gave him back his life. His spirit and sense of humor returned, he teased and joked with the nursing staff, but most importantly he was able to reconcile with his son. Dad and his son had a very strained relationship, but with the time he had left he and his son were able to reconnect and forgive each other. They both were given a wonderful gift, time. Time to help old wounds heal and to reestablish their relationship.

Instead of dying in despair and feeling alone and helpless, my dad died with dignity and grace. He knew he was loved and in peace. He was given time and support to work through the regrets we all have and the fear.

If you are serious about “aid in dying for terminally ill patients” **please reject** this bill, which just encourages despair and hopelessness. It tells people you are no longer worthwhile and it is better if you are dead.

Please take a good look at the hospice and palliative care programs that truly help people die with dignity and grace. Give hope to the dying and their family and friends.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely

Susan Piening, RN, CNM