

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Jean Sander <sander@us.ibm.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 3:16 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Sen. McLachlan, Michael
Subject: Bill 7015 - Say NO!

I strongly urge you to not support this bill!

I do not support legislation that allows Physicians to take this radical step. I am very informed on the topic and have unfortunately had to be an active family member supporting the illness and ultimate death of many of my family members as they were stricken with terminal illness including my Mother, My Aunts and Uncles as well as close friends. I understand the tug on ones hearts strings as the journey is taken by people suffering when their life ends. That said, it is not any human's right to expedite this journey. It is God's and God's alone. I would like to share 2 current situations in my family.

Just 2 weeks ago, my 84 year old Aunt was rushed to the hospital from a nursing home. There she was diagnosed with COPD, Pneumonia and Septic Shock. Although she had a DNR, the staff dutifully administered antibiotics and oxygen to her to give her a fighting chance and with kindness attended to her every need. As we held vigil with her, with our priest providing his blessings, we knew she had only a 50/50 chance. She was in God's hands. The next morning, the hospitalist pulled my cousin and I aside (her health care proxy's) and encouraged us to consider taking away the antibiotics and oxygen under the premise that though she may beat it this time, her history indicated that she would have more bouts of the disease in the future that "we" would be faced with. It is interesting to me that this was in the Emergency Room because there were no available beds in the Intensive Care. Could it be he was rushing this along because of the over crowding and wanting to free up a bed? I certainly believe this was indeed an underlying thought on his part. We were shocked.. and refused to consider this option. The ER director then kindly brought in a real bed instead of a gurney and that evening, she peacefully left this world to join Jesus in heaven. What other factors would cause a doctor to want to speed things along? If this is happening today, I can only imagine the "reasons" that would surface for deciding it was "time" to end someone's life. I find the experience I had in this case to be very close to the idea of Physician assisted suicide and there is no room for it in patient care. Such a decision... which life has meaning?... which life should have more time? ...belongs to only one Supreme being. It is not our call.

Yesterday, I joined a neighbor to visit another dear friend in a beautiful Hospice facility here in Danbury, Ct that just opened a couple of weeks ago where this lovely lady was being kept comfortable and ease into her journey to God with family and friends around her. She told me it was her time and we talked about the messages I have for others in heaven. She is at peace and when God is ready for her, she will join him. Hospice has always s provided such wonderful care for people in crisis like this. To think that it would be better to have a Doctor simply "put her down" like an animal would be a sin against humanity and God.

Thanks,
Jean

"Good Design is Good Business" - Thomas Watson, Jr.



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