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Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06103

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To whom this may concern,

This letter is being written to express my feelings on Connecticut's proposal to allow doctors to prescribe life ending medication to dying patients. I am one hundred percent for this. My very dear Grandmother suffered Parkinson's disease and I literally saw her deteriorate every single day. She couldn't eat, go to the bathroom, and get out of bed and so on. She was NOT living but just existing. Last February, I lost my father to lung cancer. After undergoing chemotherapy and radiation for the tumor on his lungs, he was too weak for them to try to do anything surgically. The tumor was growing so quickly that it was beyond anything they could do. His anxiety level was tremendous he was loaded with pain medications until the tumor finally cut off his breathing. Now I ask, is this a way a human being should have to live out the rest of their life? He was sent home for home hospice to die. Can you imagine knowing you're going to die and just waiting? He certainly would have loved to have been offered this option.

I, myself live everyday with multiple sclerosis on top of many other medical issues. I have been blind twice, I've lost my legs many, many times, my cognitive thinking is often a problem and I lose my strength often. This disease can be truly devastating. If I were to be in a vegetable stage, I would want to have a doctor assist me in ending my life. Why should I have to continue living like that? And....is that truly fair to our family's? There's no question about it that we would most likely be living in a convalescent home at whose expense?

This really, really needs to be taken into consideration. Try to put yourself into many of our shoes. It is a very, very horrid thing to think about but would put many people's lives at ease knowing they may not have to suffer, as people have to now.

Thank you in advance and I hope I am helping to allow Connecticut residents the right to have this option.

Sincerely,

Sharon B. Schmittberger