

March 13, 2015

Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Re: RHB 7015 An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients

This bill disturbs me greatly. There is dignity in dying in our own time. No outside intervention should be taking place.

There is so much room for abuse by doctors, heirs, family and abusive caregivers. Expediency in sending the loved one on their final journey impacts everyone concerned. How would you feel if your child made this decision for you?

Palliative care is available to ease pain with sedation and medicines. An evaluation by doctors as to the length of time a person has to live is often in error. Pain should not be a qualifying factor. Psychological evaluations of a depressed or "in pain" patient is often wrong as well.

A survey of ICU nurses admitted to hastening a patient's death 20% of the time. This was without permission of the patient, the family or the doctor. Scary isn't it. This could be you.

Insurance companies are forever trying to cut their costs. Health care for the elderly, the sick, the disabled and the poor is expensive. There is concern that insurance companies will eventually involve themselves in encouraging the doctors and the family.

There could be abuse by the family. Perhaps they are expecting an inheritance that will be eliminated by the patient's illness. Maybe they never loved their relative and just wish to "get him/her" out of the way.

Might there be hasty decision for an organ, a heart or a lung?

The Hippocratic Oath states doctors are to have the "utmost respect for human life from its beginning". From the 'beginning' implies also to the "end".

Our culture is quickly sinking into a moral abyss; this is a slippery slope to climb to raise our morals back to where they should be.

I am pleading with you to let this bill fail.

Sincerely,
Gail Stephen



39 Sims Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604