

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: cynarastites@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:57 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: HB7105 aid in dying

My name is Cynara Stites and I am from Mansfield.

The state of Connecticut has no legitimate interest in preventing dying people from ending their unbearable suffering.

In the 1965 *Griswold v. Connecticut* case, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Connecticut's law that prohibited the use of contraception. The Supreme Court justices ruled that the U.S. Constitution contains a right to privacy, which is an individual's right to protection from government intrusion.

Our Constitutional right to privacy protects us from the state's intrusion into our personal and private lives. Just as the state of Connecticut has no legitimate interest in intruding into our marital beds, the state has no legitimate interest in intruding into our death beds.

What dying people fear most is unbearable suffering. In Oregon, which passed an aid-in-dying law 17 years ago, many of the dying people who have used the aid-in-dying law to fill a lethal prescription just kept the medication on hand without ever taking it. Dying people's knowledge that they have a real choice to end their suffering can alleviate their anxieties and fears about facing unbearable suffering. This control can immensely improve the quality of life for dying people. It is up to dying people and not to the state of Connecticut to determine if and when to end their suffering.

Several years ago, my friend's terminally ill husband chose to starve himself to death when his family doctor said that the law prevented her from providing him a means to end his suffering. I urge you to pass the aid-in-dying bill so that all dying Connecticut residents can have a legal, dignified, humane alternative to enduring unbearable suffering or resorting to desperate measures to end their suffering, such as starving themselves to death.

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