

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Erika Ahern <erika.ahern@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:05 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 7015: Testimony

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 7015 and any other bills supporting or legalizing assisted suicide in our state. My family and I support and seek true "dignity in dying" through palliative care, raising awareness of terminal illness, and providing help to caregivers and hospice workers. Writing suicide into law, however, is not the answer nor does it support those in their last hours, who deserve our love and self-sacrificial presence.

We have already seen the legal ramifications of legalizing assisted suicide in Belgium and the Netherlands, where "right to die" laws have become progressively more permissive until children can be euthanized under the direction of their parents. We have no grounds for supposing that we will be any different.

Aside from "slippery slope" arguments, however, which have merit but no grounding in human dignity, the act of suicide is not an act of freedom. It is an act of desperation based on a vision of the human person that is inherently utilitarian: the point of life is to maximize pleasure and minimize pain. This assumption deprives individuals, families, and society of love, heroism, and the conviction that "where there is life, there is hope."

Therefore, a vote for euthanasia is in fact a vote for a host of other acts of hatred against human beings--those who have entrusted themselves to your care as their representatives: "Whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, or willful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others like them are infamies indeed. They poison human society, and they do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer from the injury." ~Pope John Paul II

I hope you will become the antidote to all these evils that he lists here. You can start with a vote against HB 7015. May God bless you and the state of Connecticut.

Sincerely,
Erika Ahern
Hamden, CT