

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

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Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:49 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Sen. Guglielmo, Anthony; Timothy.Ackert@cga.ct.gov; zRepresentative Tim Ackert
Subject: HB7015/SB668-An Act Providing a Medical Option of Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Adults

We were pleased to learn that at least two Senators and 14 Representatives agreed to introduce SB668/HB7015, "An Act Providing a Medical Option of Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Adults."

As the respected and non-partisan Quinnipiac University Poll reveals, more than 60% of those recently surveyed favor the *death with dignity* that passage of this bill will permit. Connecticut citizens are correct in their desire to join the five other states that already, as pointed out by the *New York Times*, "allow health care providers, under strict guidelines, to hasten the death of terminally ill patients who wish to spare themselves and their loved ones from the final, crippling stages of deteriorating health." As the state's population ages (We are both in our seventies.), the import of such a bill gains increased significance.

We do not take this matter lightly. We understand the concern that others have, for religious or other reasons, about an irrevocable end-of-life decision. We believe, however, that there often comes a time when comfort is not possible and the suffering of body is overwhelming. When that happens, individuals should have the choice of asking a physician to prescribe medication to bring about his or her peaceful *death with dignity*. That is the value of this bill. No patient is required to take the option; no physician is required to offer it. End-of-life choice should be allowed under Connecticut state law.

We thank you for consideration of our testimony.

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