

**Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda**

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**From:** sidat balgobin <sidatb@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:34 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Raised H.B. No. 7015

Rev. Sidat Balgobin  
150 Yantic St., Unit 153  
Norwich, CT 06360

March 17, 2015

To The Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in **support** of H.B. No. 7015 which would allow medical aid in dying for terminally ill patients. As a former Hospice Chaplain and presently a retired Minister in the United Church of Christ, I have seen many who suffer at the end of life. This bill, if it can become law, would ease physical, mental and emotional suffering in very real ways. Just knowing that this option is available would reduce anxiety for many in this very difficult time of life. This is true not just for the one who is dying but for the family as well.

In Oregon where this has been the law for over 12 years, there has not been one documented case of abuse. People respect this law and its intent. A recent poll of Connecticut citizens shows that two thirds of our residents favor allowing this as an option for the terminally ill. Mostly, this bill is about compassion. Supporters of this bill also support Hospice care. These two roads are compatible. In Oregon, once the aid in dying law was passed, participation in Hospice care doubled.

This law will continue to ease suffering for thousands of Connecticut residents without taking away the rights of anyone who chooses a different path. There is no slippery slope here. I urge you to pass this bill.

thank you,

Rev. Sidat Balgobin