

## In Consideration of Proposed Bill No. 668 – Right to Die/Aid in Dying

As you deliberate this very serious and long-reaching bill, I would like to offer two personal stories for your consideration.

The first story is one that is on-going that I have first-hand knowledge of.

This Connecticut couple did everything right according to the rules of being good and responsible American citizens.

- Their children, who wanted to go to college, they put through college.
- They put money aside for their retirement years in IRAs and other investments.
- They bought a long-term care insurance policy.
- They bought and paid off a middle class condo for year-round living and with their mother's inheritance purchased a small, summer only, cottage that has come to be their real home.
- The husband worked at a major Connecticut company and received a pension when he retired.
- By all that's fair and just, they should have had a good and comfortable later life.

But then it happened. The husband was diagnosed with a disease that has no cure, will only get worse and requires round the clock care.

Even with the long-term care insurance paying 75%, the wife must to take out \$10,000 to \$20,000 a month from their savings to meet his medical needs. She expects their savings to be exhausted by the end of this year. In order to get any help with her husband's expenses after that, she needs to sell their condo which leaves her with only the summer cottage. She will have to find an apartment to live in as her permanent residence.

After all their planning, she will be financially in a precarious position the rest of her life and he will simply exist in a half-life state for the rest of his. He would not want this for her and he would not want this for himself but at the time of his diagnosis there was no other option. Let me stress this. He may not have made the decision to end his life even if it was available but the point is and this is a very big point – there was no option to peacefully and legally bring about his own death.

The second story is about me

- I am 77 and healthy
- I am not wealthy but have sufficient assets that should I die before any devastating disease robs me of these assets, I have planned for family members to receive gifts of love and a dozen charities and organizations to receive substantial donations.
- I love life and hope to live many more years, but I do not want to see all that I have go to keeping me alive when there is no hope or quality of life. What is the point to that especially when so many charitable organizations could benefit from these donations.
- I do not want a medical team surrounding me when I die but I would appreciate the option of taking a pill one night if, and when, I feel the time is right.
- As we get past 70, we see too many cases of physical and mental tragedies that force us to realize "that could be me" and "how can I protect myself." This is a very real but unspoken fear of the elderly.

I do not think I am alone in finding horror in losing control of the end of one's life. I'm sure every person reading this or hearing me speak knows of a story like the ones I have related and thinks there has to be a better way.

I am fully aware of what a slippery slope this is and the abuses that could result in the passing of such a bill; but I believe this Committee could safe guard against such abuses and give the people of CT a choice on how their lives come to an end should it come to that.

I say again, I love life and find it precious, and even if the worst comes to me and CT has given me the option to bring about my own peaceful death, I may choose not to .....  
**but I want the option.**

Thank you for your consideration.

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