

## Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

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**From:** Danvers, Karina <karina.danvers@yale.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7:08 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Cc:** Marisa Lindsey  
**Subject:** Raised Bill 7015  
**Attachments:** Testimony of Karina Andrea Danvers (1).doc

Testimony of  
Karina Andrea Danvers, BS Public Health, MA Judiciary Committee  
18 March 2015  
House Bill 7015

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today.

I am here as a Connecticut resident living with AIDS to support House Bill 7015 – An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill.

I have learned a few things since testifying last year. First, how important it is to listen with an open heart and mind to both sides of an issue. Secondly, I have heard the fear that the “disabled” community has regarding this bill. Thirdly, that mean and acrimonious testimony does not help, but fuels fears and anger.

On March 15, just a few days ago, I watched the Oprah interview with Brittany Maynard’s husband. As you may know Brittany was a 29-year-old terminally ill woman who had to move from her home in the state of California to the State of Oregon during the last months of her life in order to be able to have legal medical assistance with dying.

I was so angry and sad that she had to leave everything she loved, her home, her loved ones, her medical team, her surroundings, the smells of home in order to get the help she choose and wanted. Thankfully Brittany and her husband had the means and the support to make such a move. Her husband described how traumatic and overwhelming that uprooting was at that juncture of her illness.

I Karina Danvers live a full life, very much like Brittany’s. I love life ... even after this long winter! I truly smell the proverbial roses every day and thank God for my life. I have dear friends, wonderful colleagues, stepchildren and an amazing husband. I don’t know if I will ever make the same choice Brittany made of ending her life via pharmaceuticals ... I don’t know if my faith or perhaps lack of courage would ever allow me to do it; however I do know that I would like to have the “medical” option right here in my home state and not in some other part of the United States or overseas. If I ever make this choice, I want to be surrounded by my beloved cat Ella soft fur and gently purring, the bright sun streaming through the front windows of my little townhouse in West Haven, next to my basket full of unread New York Times and by any friend, colleague, child or loved one who wants to be there.

I am asking for you to add one more medical option for a dignified death in the state of Connecticut.

Thank you