

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Sterling Durgy <sterlingdurgy@cs.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:35 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Sen. McLachlan, Michael; zRepresentative Pam Staneski
Subject: Bill 7015

I am writing against legalizing Assisted Suicide in Connecticut.

(1) It is impossible to prevent the abuse of such a provision.

- Medical professionals are not immune to abuse of those who should have their care when money is involved; look at the VA system.

- It will be difficult to prevent people from committing suicide from trivial reasons, especially with psychological issues that are seen as medical issues.

- Once a person has given permission for such a procedure, it may be nearly impossible for them to revoke it if the authorities involved aren't receptive; they'll be trapped by the paperwork.

(2) Perhaps worst of all, people who have debilitating illnesses will have the added burden of feeling that they have an obligation to commit suicide to reduce the financial and time burden of family and medical resources. This opens them to become further victimized not only by those closest to them, but importantly, by hospital, state, and federal bureaucracies seeking to save money. This is especially true with an aging population.

(3) People who take this route shut themselves off from medical advances that may save their lives.

(4) While it is essential to be compassionate to those in severe pain, the safer direction would be to direct resources to the mitigation of serious pain.

(5) Such a bill will require medical professionals to divert from their traditional goal of promoting better health or "doing no harm." This is not something to be taken lightly.

Respectfully,

Sterling M. Durgy
126 Sunnyside Court
Milford, CT 06460