

## Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

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**From:** Sarah Hambrick <sjhambrick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 2:12 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** H.B. 7015 An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients

Congratulations to our state legislators! You have before you the momentous opportunity to significantly ease the burden on the shoulders of Connecticut citizens who are mentally competent but terminally ill. The Aid in Dying legislation will provide a sense of autonomy to those who qualify for its protection. It will provide a level of control in the last days of dealing with a steadily debilitating illness. It will offer a wellspring of compassion and relief. And it will be yet more evidence that our state cares for the dignity and wellbeing of vulnerable citizens.

I have read multiple written testimonies in opposition to the bill. Most are grounded on insisting the bill encourages suicide, or on a religious opposition. The bill does not condone suicide, an inapt term when the patient is facing terminal illness.

As elected representatives, you of course know that religion is not a basis upon which to enact public policy. To deny the choice of a self-administered dose to a competent person facing death because it violates the notions of some religious people is a denial of the Constitutional provision of separation of church and state. Real world evidence has already shown the benefits of Aid in Dying to people in the here and now.

I again congratulate you all. I am confident your committee will vote in support of the bill, as will the Legislature and the Governor. Then we will have yet another reason to be proud to call Connecticut our home.

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