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RE: HB 7015

Good afternoon, Thank you for giving me your undivided attention while I speak on bill HB 7015 AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS.

I strongly oppose any type of legislation that would give any person the ability to take a life that is best left up to the higher powers.

I was born in 1949 with Cerebral Palsy. At birth the doctors were unable to get me to breathe, which caused some damage to portions of my brain. The doctors told my parents to place me into an institution, and they gave me six months to live. Out of love and dedication, both mom and dad proved the doctors wrong. And yes doctors today know far more than they did in the 40s, but every day they are amazed with their patients who miraculously get better after the medical know how has given up.

In today's society Connecticut Legislation abolished Capital punishment (Death by Injection) just a few years ago. On January 9, 1997 the Supreme Court heard arguments on this same issue. Over 2,000 people, including myself, were standing at the steps of the Supreme Court in below freezing weather to show support against Assisted Suicide. The Supreme Court tuled against Assisted Suicide stating, "This is not a constitutional matter" and was left up to each state to decide. Suicide is not a constitutional

rite. In fact there are laws on the books now making it criminal to take someone's life or to assist in taking one's own life.

I fully understand, having lost members of my own family to cancer, the sorrow and grief of knowing that you or your loved one is dying a slow and painful death. With today's medical knowledge of saving lives, we have no right to put the burden of taking a life into the doctors' hands. We do have the right to take ourselves off of life support. I was Conservator of Person and had to grant the wishes of one of my consumers by taking him off life support, despite my own beliefs. The doctors give an oath to save lives and now we are talking about given them the right to decide who should live or die. That is a double edge sword and will cause havoc within the medical community.

Sincerely

Donald L James