

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Robert Kagels <mbkagels@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:58 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 7015, the Assisted Suicide Bill

No matter how we frame it, suicide is still murder - self-murder.

My mother died last November as the natural progression of her condition. I was with her the last few days. She died quietly, with dignity, and without hastening - or prolonging - her death.

In the Netherlands, where assisted suicide was made law a few years ago, despite "legal safeguards" against it, families and individuals face pressure to end lives prematurely for many reasons, not the least of which is economic. If "aid in dying" had been the law where my mother lived out her last days, our family would have faced pressure to end her life sooner because her care was expensive. It's hard enough to see a loved one dying. Having the added pressure to force her death would have been intolerable.

One of the consequences of passing this legislation would be to add immense pressure to families to hasten the death of a loved one who is dying. What kind of compassion is that?

The pro-assisted suicide group Compassion and Choices is an outgrowth of the Hemlock Society. Their current name betrays the ugly reality behind their efforts.

Please choose true compassion and kill this bill ASAP.

Thank you,
Robert Kagels
West Hartford