

Testimony for support
Compassionate Aid in Dying, House Bill 7015

Karen Laski
279 Fern St.
Manchester, CT 06040

I support the Compassionate aid in dying bill. This kindness is available already to others and has proven safe in protecting individual choice. My parents both had horrible illnesses that led to their death. My mother would have availed herself to assistance in dying when her COPD became unbearable. Her fear was not being able to breathe. She told me years before that she wished she could have the choice when the time came. My father died before my mother and suffered for a long time. He was stoic and didn't speak much about dying except to sign and advanced directive that he didn't want to be kept alive by technology or force feeding. Both of their "living years" could have been more peaceful if they knew they had options, especially for my mother.

I am like my mother. I already fear that when my time comes I could face a horrendous dying process without relief options because my home state has not passed a law to protect our rights as individuals not to suffer unnecessarily. A relative of mine has a serious illness and lives in Vermont. We are expecting him to recover and live for many more years, but I feel good that he lives in a state where he can feel comfortable with options if things turn for the worse.

Please consider the suffering you would spare people by passing House bill 7015. It's up to each individual to determine how much he or she can bear. I would live better now if I knew I had the choice to pursue a peaceful death when my time comes.

Thank you.
Karen Laski