

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Art Mannion <amannion@rizzocompanies.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 3:34 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Sen. McLachlan, Michael
Subject: Senate Bill 668

Dear Committee:

Shamefully, the proponents of this Bill want to cause doctors to violate their Hippocratic oath and act as God by intentionally taking human life. We human beings do not choose our time to be born nor do we choose our time to die. For centuries our Judeo-Christian ethics have told us that death, while individual, is not a matter of choice. We even give death by one's own hand a name, "suicide," and for centuries our jurisprudence considered it a sign of insanity.

If a person decides to no longer eat or drink, or not to use mechanical devices to breathe or feed, our ethics find this an exercise of our own free will. Death may be consequence but the timing of the death happens without our positive act to end life at a given moment. And the State plays no role in the decision. This bill makes the doctor a killer for that is the name we give to those who willfully take a human life. The State has no place here.

This bill cannot be wrapped in the cloak of "mercy." Our medical personnel have multiple ways to relieve pain and to make suffering persons comfortable. We have hospice facilities to care for those whom we think are within months of dying. "Think" is the operative word for more than one person has entered a hospice only to recover.

It is time for the State to stop playing the "Almighty." Stay out of matters of life and death except where carefully considered ethics grant a role, such as war, or punishment of those who themselves kill. How ironic that the State puts to death those who kill but now wants to empower doctors to do just that –kill.

The only killing should be the death of this bill. It should not have ever seen the light of day. Now that it has, it is time for this Committee to consign it to the cemetery of bad ideas where overbearing State action is forever buried.

Thank you for your consideration,

Arthur J. Mannion, Jr.
Danbury, Connecticut