

Good (morning/afternoon) Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committee.

My name is Victor Marquis and I am a resident of Killingly. I also appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony in favor of bill **HB7015 – AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS**.

I am disturbed by the fact that religious organizations seek to impose their beliefs on others in connection with end-of-life decisions.

I was raised Catholic. I attended Catholic schools for 10-1/2 years and that includes 2-1/2 years of seminary. I also attended a Catholic College for 1-1/2 years before enlisting in the U S Navy. So I have a full understanding of Catholic doctrine.

However, as an Atheist, I do not think that any religion should be able to present a law that would negatively affect non-adherents. I, nor anyone, should not be required to die according to the dictates of someone else's religion, whatever it may be.

I worked at a hospital recently as a Constant Attendant, many times watching elderly terminally ill patients throughout the night - afraid, suffering, having their lives extended despite their wishes. These were usually mentally competent, though very distressed. A few of them expressed to me a wish that "they could do something".

If opposition to this bill is coming primarily from a religious perspective, I would say that they are welcome to live and die in accordance with their rules and feelings. But do not try to force that on everyone else.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.