

To the Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Hello. My name is Zachary Mercugliano, and I'm from Durham, Connecticut. I am submitting testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 7015. I do not believe in what this bill stands for, because I believe in concept it goes against the very nature of human beings. It's not about individual people, it's about a bigger picture. If a man wanted to jump off a bridge, many- if not all of you- would want to try to stop him. Even Apple's Siri program will try to contact Suicide Prevention if you start asking it things that may hint of depression. Now this bill currently deals with the elderly, ie those who are unable to do the bridge jumping, in person. The various reasons they would want to do this have probably already been stated. No one likes suffering, and no one wants to see someone they love suffer. The prevention of this seems like a good thing. But first you'd be tying doctors' hands. If they don't want to assist in the death of their patient, they will most likely get into trouble. Business will be taken elsewhere. You see, it would start out like that. Before long many would become conditioned to that situation. 10, 20 years, and all doctors in the profession would be doing this routinely. But it would eventually be called what it is, when those seeking power manipulate these tools to their means. Once you've opened the Pandora's box of control of life and death, there's no stopping it. You may have the best intentions, but your solution, bill HB 7015, is rooted in a problematic concept.

When our country was founded, the Founders wrote of '*Certain, Unalienable rights...Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*'. Now some might say the Right to Liberty entails the right to kill yourself. But nowhere do I see that we have a right to Death. Liberty exists when there is morality, and where there is morality, there are rules. Rules that say one should stop the man from jumping off a bridge, and that we have a responsibility to educate him otherwise. Life is a good thing, and suffering is certainly not. But each life affects another. There is no knowing how many generations can be affected by the premature death of a single human being.

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 7015.