

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Ellen Pappalardo <epappalardolc@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 1:53 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Opposition to any bills supporting assisted suicide

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB 7015/SB668, the misnamed "AID IN DYING BILL" which is actually an attempt to establish assisted Suicide in CT. Please oppose this and any other bill which legalizes assisted suicide.

We can look to the state of Oregon to see what the result of such legislation would be. In fact, two physicians have recently released a thorough review of practices there and have sounded a clear alarm. Herbert Hendin and Kathleen Foley released their evidence in : "PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IN OREGON: A MEDICAL PERSPECTIVE"

This Article examines the Oregon Death with Dignity Act from a medical perspective. Drawing on case studies and information provided by doctors, families, and other care givers, it finds that seemingly reasonable safeguards for the care and protection of terminally ill patients written into the Oregon law are being circumvented.

Their evidence proves that patients who have sought appropriate medical treatment have been offered PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE (PAS) instead. This negates the concept of it being a choice of "free will" as many seriously ill patients feel themselves to be a burden to their loved ones and are therefore vulnerable to suggestions that they end their lives.

In fact, when patients receive effective pain management, good financial and physical aid, appropriate pharmacological support including treatment for depression, and spiritual care as desired the number who choose PAS hovers near zero.

I urge you to stand up for patient's rights and support palliative care, hospice and other true forms of compassion for suffering people.

Sincerely, Ellen Pappalardo, RN, IBCLC, RNC-OB