

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: davnlori@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:43 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Oppose HB 7015 - Assisted Suicide Bill

Dear Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Lori Pia and I am a resident of Trumbull, CT. I was born and raised in Connecticut and can't imagine living anywhere else. That is why I am very saddened to see that our beautiful state - The Constitution State - is even considering a bill that would allow anyone to take their own life. The constitution states we have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I am well aware when people are faced with illnesses that may take their life, fear can step in and take a hold of their reason. For this reason and some others that I will get into with you, I ask that you vote no to H.B. 7015.

When I was fifteen years old my mother died. She spent the last six weeks of her life in Mexico undergoing laetrile treatments for melanoma cancer that had just previously spread to her brain. My siblings and I stayed with our grandparents since our father had accompanied our mother on this trip. I am telling you this, because I didn't get to spend those last weeks with my mother and we weren't able to say our proper goodbyes. I have always yearned for that time when I should have been showing my love to my mother and helping her as she passed from this world into the next. Recently, my mother-in-law and father-in-law passed away - just a little more than a year apart from each other. My mother-in-law had her whole family around her those last days in the hospital. Sons, daughter-in-laws, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren gathered around to love her and caress her and say all the last things we wanted to say to her. She died with her family around her loving her, helping her and sending her off with peace of mind and heart. A little more than a year later my father-in-law joined her. He left us a little quieter than my mother-in-law (she had 25 people in her hospital room shortly before she died) that was his way, but we all were able to say our goodbyes, loving him and making him as comfortable as we could. We had time to laugh with him and listen to his old stories. Time to tell him we loved him and to fulfill his last wishes. Again, we sent him off peacefully without any regrets. Ten years ago one of my best friends and humblest, most joyful person I have ever known passed away from melanoma cancer. Those last months that I spent with her reading to her, dressing her and just loving her were some of the most beautiful and cherished memories that I have. I am so thankful for them. This is why I ask you to vote no to H.B. 7015, because it will rob people of some of the most precious moments they will spend with their loved ones.

I know this bill is called An Act Concerning Aid in Dying For Terminally Ill Patients, but the only aid we should be giving patients at this time is good palliative care. Helping them with love, relieving their pain with pain medication and relieving their fears with good psychological and spiritual support. We should make sure no one feels alone and that they are a burden. The patient should have the medical care they need and the support of their loved ones. They should never feel that they are a burden to the state, the insurance companies, or their families. We as a state should be supporting the families with the resources they need to help carry the weight of their sorrows, so that they never feel overburdened. I have heard the word compassion used over and over again regarding this bill (or other forms of it), but there is no compassion in killing someone.

The word compassion in the Webster dictionary says it is an emotion one feels in response to the sufferings of others that motivates a desire to help. It is derived from the Latin word "compassio" - suffer with. True compassion is to co-suffer, to suffer with the person, supporting them in their needs and lightening their load, not eliminating them. Since I have my dictionary out I will also, give you the meaning of palliative care. The word palliative comes from the Latin - palliatus - meaning, to cloak. Isn't this what we should do to the least of our brothers, when they are naked to cloak them, when they are in pain to give them medication that will relieve the pain and when they are afraid - relieve their fears?

Again, I ask filled of compassion, PLEASE, vote" NO" to H.B. 7015 .

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lori A. Pia
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