

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Judy Principi. I live in Burlington, Connecticut and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 7015.

No doubt you will all hear different sides, with angles and twists to this debate, as I have over the past two years. However, what this is really about is choice. People should have a right to choose how they live their life, and maybe more importantly, how they choose to end it when faced with a terminal illness.

In spite of what opponents say, Oregon has proven to us since 1997 that a law for aid in dying can and does work the way it was meant to. I am fully confident that such a law will work just as well here in Connecticut. I like to live my life believing to each his own. I believe in ones right to choose for his or her self. People should live and let live! I do not want a religious group to decide what they think is best for me. Only I know that. Only I live that. And I will not tell them either.

As a registered nurse, I know through experience and working with many patients and their families that what works well for some, does not always work for others. Just because a patient is heavily sedated does not mean they are pain free and in any way comfortable. Especially if that patient is already compromised with a terminal illness. The true reality is that some do not find peace until their death. Allowing them a choice of when and how that will happen without fear for their family and loved ones left behind is the right thing to do.

On a personal side, I did lose an amazing, loving, and caring brother to ALS after only nine months of being diagnosed. He was allowed Hospice care but they were not there on the day he lost his life. There is little that can be done for you when your ability to move, eat, drink, speak, and breathe have all been lost. I know in my heart that if my brother Daniel had an option

to choose when and how to end his struggling and pain, he would have chosen so. Sadly, Hospice was just not there. I believe more could have been done had this bill passed last year.

As the daughter of a mother who lost her life to cancer, well, she suffered many years prior to her death and many times she told me she wished it could all be over.

As for myself, a born and raised citizen of Connecticut, I hope that if the time comes for me, I would not have to leave my home to move to a state where aid in dying is already a law. But that I could stay in my home with my family beside me so we can say our last goodbyes. I wish to leave this Earth with not only peace and dignity, but on my own terms as well should I sadly be faced with a terminal illness.

I trust you to take this opportunity to do what is right and pass HB 7015. The Q poll shows this is what the residents of Connecticut want, and I know that this is what I hope for.

Thank you members of the Judiciary Committee for letting me submit this sincere testimony. Judy Principi.