

Testimony in Opposition to HB 7015
"An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients"
March 18, 2015

To: Senator Coleman, Rep. Tong and members of the Judiciary Committee
From: Robert Hubbard, P.O. Box 345, Wallingford, CT 06492 (203-213-2808)

When my father was dying from a terminal illness, he was in great pain. A relative, who was a registered nurse, checked into it and found his doctor had virtually no experience in pain management. Several days later, we found a different doctor and he relieved my father's pain.

What about those elderly people who have no relatives with medical experience . . . no one to act on their behalf? What about the person with a disability who is pressured to assent to suicide to "spare" his or her caregivers trouble? What about those who are depressed . . . and who would not be depressed if confronted with a terminal illness? What about the elderly who are on mind-fogging drugs. Can they make "rational" decisions to kill themselves?

Here in Connecticut, let's put our efforts and our funds into creating a compassionate environment in which an ill person is not pressured to end their lives. Let's support Hospice, let's support physician training in pain management, let's keep the role of the doctor one of supporting life . . . not taking it intentionally.

One final note: I've been reading the testimonies here and was greatly impressed by the letter from Stephen Mendelsohn. I urge you to read his testimony. It powerfully states why assisted suicide is so very wrong for our state.