

3/17/15

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 7015 (the Aid in Dying bill).

Though HB 7015 specifies terminally ill patients, the definition of terminal gives room for a wide range of abuses. We are already seeing some of the abuses being carried out in Oregon and Washington. It is important to ask, "Who really decides what is terminal and for what reasons?"

For the third year in a row, I am testifying against this terrible legislation. It is a heart wrenching topic that does not get easier to discuss with each additional year, as many emotions come with it. My resolve remains the same – to stand strongly against legalizing assisted suicide here in Connecticut.

We all know, that as sad as it may sound, suicide can and is being carried out; it always has been and always will be. No one has to depend on whether or not the law allows it.

The new concept that an individual can aid in another individual's death by making such an action legal through government legislation is completely appalling. To entertain such a horrifying ideology is beyond comprehension. We are now deciding whether or not to help someone to die instead of helping them to live. It really is mind-boggling.

We must look at the dire implications such legalization would bring. Assisted suicide promotes the decline in quality of life for any society that allows it, and ends up diminishing quality of care.

Many grieve the loss of friends, loved ones, and acquaintances because their suicides brought about their deaths prematurely. It is naturally comforting to know that our state government is supporting those who find themselves in desperate times to live rather than to die.

Any proposed law that promotes assisted suicide in any form, including the current aid in dying bill, needs to be stopped in our state legislature. Suicide prevention is true compassionate care that we need to continue to embrace here in Connecticut.

Please oppose HB 7015. Thank you.

Janet Roberts, Prospect, CT