

Honored members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is May (Mabel) Terry, and I am from Portland, Connecticut. I am writing in support of the bill concerning aid in dying for terminally ill patients.

I am a retired Disability Rights Advocate. I retired onto Social Security Disability when my breast cancer was found to have metastasized to my bones, and later, to my liver.

I have been extremely fortunate. It has been ten years since the cancer spread; my prognosis was approximately two years. I am what is known as NED, which stands for "no evidence of disease" being found in my current scans. This is a not uncommon occurrence; however, in 49 out of 50 cases of metastatic breast cancer, active disease returns and the patient dies. So I suspect I'm living on borrowed time.

I am also fortunate in that I have never had any pain from my cancer, although bone mets, as we call them, usually cause severe pain. Chemo for my original cancer was no picnic, but since then I have had nothing but fatigue from my treatments.

I belong to several internet groups for breast cancer patients. Most patients want to live. But some do stop treatment due to pain or other symptoms. It just seems wrong that they should have to suffer until cancer takes them. They should have the choice to end their lives a few months early if they so desire. I feel I should have that choice, too.

I do not want to suffer with pain or severe nausea. I deserve to choose whether or not to go a little early.

This is only one person's point of view, but I hope it helps. People deserve a choice to die without pain and with dignity.

May Terry
136 Old Marlborough Turnpike
Portland, Connecticut 06480
860-342-5518