

## Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

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**From:** Amy Timmons <amytimmons13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 6:55 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Cc:** Sen. McLachlan, Michael  
**Subject:** Bill 7015

Dear Member of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you to voice my opinion about proposed Bill 7015, an act providing a medical option of compassionate aid in dying for terminally ill adults. I urge you to please vote against this bill.

Doctors become doctors to try to heal people and to help patients have the best quality of life while they are living. We should not pass a bill that adds "assisting people to commit suicide" to their job description. It is not fair for us as a state to put our doctors in that position. It goes against everything they stand for. Physicians vow to "do no harm." Many doctors believe that helping people commit suicide, no matter the reason, is doing harm. Please don't pass this bill. It would make them break that vow and possibly open the door for other doctors who don't even care about that vow to violate it.

If this bill became law, it would be almost impossible to prevent or detect malpractice or patient coercion/abuse. For example, what about people with communication disorders? What if the doctors misunderstand what is requested? People who would be prescribed this proposed medicine may be those who don't have the strength to speak for themselves, but still appear to be "mentally competent" as the bill notes. If there is malpractice or patient coercion/abuse, the result would be the early death of innocent Connecticut citizens, and perhaps no one would ever find out that it wasn't what they wanted in the first place. I understand some people proposed this bill out of compassion, but if this passed, it could very well grant ill-meaning people an avenue to murder vulnerable citizens in our community and go unnoticed. I beg you, please do not open the door for this to happen in our state!

I agree that we should help restore dignity to people as they near the end of their life due to terminal illness. However, I do not agree that this would be accomplished by giving them a way to end their life earlier than their illness would. We as a state can do so much better than that!

To help people die with dignity, we need to show them honor and respect, listen to their stories, and see how they can contribute to our community, if they wish to. If someone believes they need to end their life early to "die with dignity," it is not because they want to bypass the pain. Rather, it is because our society has a problem with largely devaluing the sick, elderly and disabled. A majority of the citizens in our state who are dying of terminal illnesses are our elders. They deserve our respect and more of our attention, not less. Despite any

physical handicap or disease, every citizen is a person of value and has something to offer. We need to do a better job at acknowledging that, both as a state and as individuals.

We need to let these people know that they are valued, and that we are glad they are alive. A good place to start would be to invest our time, energy and finances into improving their quality of life while they are still here, instead of directing our resources into helping them die, or worse, be coerced into dying.

Our hospice, nursing homes and in-home care still are in much need for improvement. Please invest our tax dollars into that which increases the quality of life for senior citizens, not that which compromises the work of doctors and puts the vulnerable at risk. Please vote no to Bill 7015.

Thank you for considering these issues and for working hard to protect our state citizens.

Sincerely,

Amy Timmons