

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Sofair, Andre <andre.sofair@yale.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:03 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: IN OPPOSITION TO SB668/HB7015

To whom it may concern-

I write in opposition to the proposed physician aid in dying bill. I am a physician and faculty member at the Yale University School of Medicine, where I have served for twenty years. In addition to being unethical and against the codes of ethics to which we adhere, commanding us "...not to give any deadly medicine if asked..." it also has many pitfalls which a non-physician cannot realize.

First, many patients are ill-informed about all of their options in seeking care for a complex condition. If a physician is given the option to assist in the killing of a complex patient, imagine what will happen to the drive for that physician to do the hard work to care for that patient in their recovery or to refer them to a physician who can. Second, although the proposal requires the opinion of a second physician, realize that there is a strong disincentive for the referring physician to send the patient to a specialist who may offer a different opinion from that of the primary physician. How will the patient know that there may be other options? And what of the case where a medical error has been committed without the patient's knowledge? What is to stop the physician from suggesting their assistance in a suicide to bury the mistake? Third, what of the financial incentives, both at the family level and at the level of insurers, to pressure patients to choose assisted suicide to save money? Once legalized, physician-assisted suicide becomes difficult to control and turns us, as healers, into potential killers. Instead of physician-assisted suicide, let us spend our time on compassion at all time, and where necessary, palliative care.

Do you, as a patient or the family member of a patient, really want to sit across the examination room from me knowing that I our state has given me the power to end your life, albeit with your "informed consent"? Defeat this bill once again; once and for all.

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