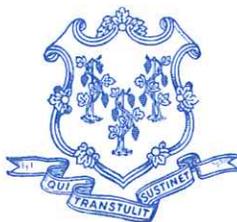


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HB 5270 would offer hope to terminally ill patients who suffer from diseases for which there is no effective approved treatment. Unfortunately, recent federal court decisions have held that terminally ill patients do not have a right to try experimental treatment¹. As a response to these decisions, a number of states have passed "right to try" laws to give these patients access to potentially life-saving therapy,. The legislation before you would allow drug and device manufacturers to make investigational drugs and devices available to certain terminally ill patients. This would allow qualifying patients access to experimental treatments. Qualifying patients must have considered all other treatment options currently approved by FDA, been unable to participate in a clinical trial for the terminal illness within 100 miles of home, received a recommendation from the treating physician for the experimental treatment, and have given written, informed consent.

While some argue that access to experimental treatments poses a significant risk of harm to the patient, it would seem that this danger is far less than that posed by the certain death due to the underlying illness. This bill strikes a reasonable balance; it contains numerous safeguards and allows access to these treatments only to terminally ill patients. It does not require that insurance companies cover these treatments, and it allows but does not require the manufacturer to make the products available. I urge the Public Health Committee to pass this legislation which would offer hope to patients afflicted with terminal illness.

Thank you for considering these important pieces of legislation.

¹Abigail Alliance for Better Access to Developmental Drugs v. von Eschenbach, 495 F.3d 695, 696 (D.C. Cir. 2007) (en banc), cert. denied, 128 S. Ct. 1069 (2008).