



**Yale University
School of Medicine**

**Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Department of Pediatrics**

333 Cedar Street
P.O. Box 208064
New Haven, CT 06520-8064
Tel: (203) 688-2320
Fax: (203) 688-5426

Date: February 21, 2018

To: the Senate and House of Representatives, State of
Connecticut:

Re: **HR 5148, AN ACT CONCERNING PREGNANT PATIENTS
EXERCISING LIVING WILLS.**

I am writing today to express my support for HR 5148, and to ask for your support as well. I have spent many years studying, teaching, and writing about medical ethics. The concept of patient autonomy, and the opportunity to direct one's own healthcare, is foundational to modern medical ethics, and to modern American medicine. As you know, accepted medical ethical principles, and the law, currently provide individuals the opportunity to direct their care in the future, specifically regarding the provision of life-sustaining medical treatment, if the patient is no longer able to speak for him or herself. Such advance directives or living wills are appropriate, foundational to medical care, and well known to most people. Unfortunately, the law does not necessarily extend that same right to pregnant women. Many believe that to withhold the same right of self-determination to pregnant women represents and injustice, and I agree.

HR 5148 would provide women the opportunity to state their wishes for future care clearly, including what they would want in the event of incapacity when pregnant. And it would provide for the same degree of self-determination that others are accorded. I support this effort, which I believe represents a more just approach to this issue than current CT law provides. I'm happy to discuss this if anyone wishes.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Mercurio, MD, MA
Chief, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Director, Program for Biomedical Ethics
Yale School of Medicine

Mark R. Mercurio, MD, MA
Division Chief
Matthew Bizzarro, MD
Medical Director

Christie Bruno, DO
Rosa Carrasco, MD
Elizabeth Cristofalo, MD
Matthew Drago, MD
Richard A. Ehrenkranz, MD
Patrick G. Gallagher, MD
Yeisid F. Gozzo, MD
Emily C. Gritz, MD
Jeffrey R. Gruen, MD
Robert Herzlinger, MD
Harris C. Jacobs, MD
Edward K. James, MD
Lindsay C. Johnston, MD, M.Ed
Soo H. Kwon, MD, MHS
Orly L. Levit, MD
Cheryl Menzies, MD
Eliza Myers, MD
Angela Montgomery, MD, MsED
Steven M. Peterec, MD
Emese Pinter, MD
Ian Gross, MD (*emeritus*)