

HB 5417 Medical Aid in Dying

As a physician, daughter and sister I have had much first- hand experience with the inadequacy of current end of life options for humans. Animals are afforded the right and the means to die painlessly and with dignity when their medical condition makes life a daily tortuous experience. People are left few choices other than pain killing drugs which induce nausea, vomiting and the inability to empty their bowels comfortably or to take their own lives by violent means. They are left to slowly starve to death, as they are reduced to the capacity of infants, relying on other to keep them clean and dry while they wait for their condition to advance to the point that their vital functions finally cease. The courageous few take the path of Robin Williams, who hung himself rather than waiting and allowing his family to see him die slowly with humiliation and extreme physical distress.

Allowing physicians to assist individuals in making their own rational choices without interference from the government is a humane and necessary option. It forces no one to choose that path if they don't want to. I urge the Public Safety Committee of the CT Legislature to take the first step in allowing this bill to move forward.

Respectfully,

Linda S. Alexander, MD.

Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine