

Dear CT General Assembly Public Health Community,

The subject of letting people make their own decision on when and how to die is a big one for me. I have lived with chronic kidney disease all my life and now since I have been denied a third kidney transplant from two hospitals I am back on dialysis which is the only way to stay alive. Dialysis is a slow torture to stay alive and I cannot say how long my body and spiritual mentality can handle the treatments. When my body can't handle anymore I want to know that I have the right to stop dialysis treatments and let nature take its course so I can go home to heaven and be pain free. I don't think it is for the courts to decide that a person who suffers from a chronic illness needs to continue treatment when they have suffered and done all they could to try to live some kind of "quality of life". I have always hated that saying, "quality of life". Not all chronic illnesses can be cured. I strongly believe that children at the age of 7 years old and have cancer know that their time is limited. I believe God talks to them and they are just as mentally stable as an adult who has gone through treatments for whatever chronic illness they have been dealing with. This decision to spend whatever time they have to be with loved ones should be the person with the illness after having a family gathering and talk about the pros and cons for ending their life which was filled with sickness. The courts are not God and neither are the doctors who now a days think they are. God gave humans the right to make a choice. As long as the person with the illness and the family all feel the relief and serenity that the ill person feels then that is what counts. Spending time with loved ones alert and able to say a proper good-bye should be the right of the person with the illness NO ONE ELSE!

I hope I said what is in my heart on this subject the right way. It is not an easy decision to make to begin with. I know because I suffer everyday with pain and dialysis sucks the life out of me. I am praying that when I know my time is up all will be well.

Thank You.

Denise Delaney, ESRD person.