

Judy Kilty

83 Abbe Road

Enfield CT 06082 860-539-4754 State Senate Rep – John Kissel State Rep Carol Hall

In 1989, two years after my father died from cancer, my mother was diagnosed with mouth cancer. Over the next four years she had two surgeries and several six week sessions of Radiation. In the summer of 1993 she was diagnosed with metastasized terminal lung cancer. She was given a life expectancy of 2 – 4 months. We arranged a large family reunion so she could say her goodbys.

She had time to decide what dress to be buried in, and the distribution of sentimental items. By now, she had a realistic view on what was going to happen. During this time, she expressed to me many times, her fear of dying with severe pain. I promised her I would not let that happen. I was unable to keep that promise.

During the last week of her life, we brought in hospice to help with the transition. By this time she was semi comatose and moaning in pain, saying - you promised no pain, you promised. Its too much. - She developed a fever of 106 degrees for three days. We had earlier decided not to have a feeding tube, so she was literally starving to death.

Hospice was an incredible help, but they did not have the authority to end the pain and fever and starvation. I had broken my promise to my mother. She needed a compassionate end to the torture she was forced to endure. Everyone, family, hospice and doctors knew there was no hope of survival, but she had to endure 4 days of incredible pain before she died.

This should not be allowed. Last July, with a shattered heart, we had our 14 year old dog euthanized. What a blessing it was to be able to end the horrific pain our sweet dog had been experiencing. But we could not do the same for my mother. You may think that 4 days spent dying is not that long. But I spent those

96 hours holding her hand and watching my mother wrenching with pain, while unconscious, burning with fever, and starving.

A proper dose of morphine, or whatever would now be prescribed would have brought a more painfree, peaceful, humane death to my mother. She deserved to be treated at least as compassionately as our dog was.

I understand that there are legal, personal, and medical decisions which must be addressed before giving people the right to a dignified death. I made a promise of no pain to my mother. I broke that promise, along with my heart, when the ability to end this unspeakable horrific death was readily available, but not yet legal.

I implore you to do the humane thing, the right thing, and pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration.