

**Testimony on**  
*H.B. 5417 "An Act Concerning End-of-Life Care"*  
Before the Public Health Committee  
March 20, 2018

My name is Frances H. Morlino, and I am against HB 5417 regarding so-called End-of-Life Care.

I do not believe that the state of CT should be involved in any way in allowing persons to end their own lives. The state should be doing all it can to assist its citizens in living their lives safely from conception to natural death. Furthermore, this measure has not been successful in 3 prior attempts – who is pushing this, and why? What a waste of the legislator's time!

Much can be done to ease the suffering of those who are in serious pain.

I am very concerned that this new law will allow for pressure to be put on those who are elderly or who have terminal diseases to save money, to ease the problems for their relatives, etc. We have seen this happen in The Netherlands, and Belgium, where every year there are cases investigated where people were euthanized against their wishes, even children with terminal diseases have been given permission for this procedure.

In our own country, where Oregon has allowed assisted suicide, there have been many abuses. Additionally, now insurance companies are denying terminally ill patients coverage and are recommending they take their lives instead. See Stephanie Packer's story in California.

In addition to helping maintain order in society, laws are meant to shape us morally by sending messages about what we value. Imagine the message these laws send to patients fighting for their lives, who believe every day is a gift, and have been told they have only months to live. There are innumerable stories of those who have survived years past their supposed expiration date, and yet, with assisted-suicide laws, the message society sends is, you should consider checking out early. See the Stephen Hawking's story – he was diagnosed with ALS at age 21, yet, he outlived his life expectancy many times, and lived long enough for some effective treatments and assists from technology which made it possible for him to make some outstanding contributions in the field of science.

What would have happened if Stephen Hawking had received his diagnosis in a state that allows assisted suicide?

Please vote NO on this measure.

Sincerely,  
Frances H. Morlino  
Danbury, CT

