

Testimony of Alice Oliver, Milford, CT

I am in full support of this legislation.

My son works for a construction company that was called to Houston after the hurricane to deal with the repair and reconstruction of several nursing homes. What he saw left him with a profound sadness and led to several very open conversations about our own end of life wishes, his and my husband's included. A later conversation with my other son indicated that he had had similar conversations with his brother.

These are not easy conversations to have. Tears are shed, hands are held, and hugs are given. But they underscored for me my profound belief that individuals, in consultation with those who love them, should have the right to self-determination when their health has failed and there is no hope of recovery.

As I wrote in 2015, terminally ill patients (and those who love them) know that they are going to die. It is only a question of how, where, and when. Some would choose to leave these questions unanswered, believing that a power greater than themselves will dictate the outcome. Nothing in this bill would change that. But for others, including myself and my family, there would be great comfort in knowing that these are questions we can answer for ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.