

Testimony on

H.B. 5417 "An Act Concerning End-of-Life Care"

Before the Public Health Committee

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My name is Peter J. Rzasa and I reside at 33 Woodcrest Road, Seymour, CT. 06483.
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I am testifying in opposition to H.B. 5417.

Its called "physician aid-in-dying," "death with dignity" and the "right to die. But in reality, these terms mask what it truly is – SUICIDE. Currently in our state, anyone who administers or aids a person to commit suicide is actually murdering that person. And now passage of H.B. 5417 aims to make murder legal.

Physician aided suicide is legal in Oregon. An Oregon Health Authority research finding shows that more than 75% of those who took that option didn't cite pain as a concern. Their issues were emotional or existential: feeling a burden to family, loss of autonomy, depression or inability to do things they enjoy.

Medical professionals should treat these individuals to make their lives bearable and enjoyable. These people should not be encouraged to commit suicide, but encouraged to enjoy life.

Our society continues to pass laws do away with those who are "inconvenient" by legalizing abortions and assisted suicide. Where is our respect for life? Where will it lead? We are slowly slipping down the slope to the level of Nazi Germany.

I respectfully ask that you reject H.B 5417. Thank you kindly.