

Dear State Representatives,

I am writing this letter in very strong support of medical aid in dying.

Three years ago I watched my partner die from prostate cancer. His wish from the moment he was diagnosed was to have available to him the means to take his own life with dignity. Due to the terminal stage of the cancer and his advanced age, he dearly wanted to avoid the pain and indignity that he knew he would have to manage as he died. He went so far as to consider moving to a state that would provide medical aid. Instead, he remained in Connecticut and we managed the dying process through the support of hospice care in our home. Despite the excellent work of the hospice workers, he spoke of wanting medication that would allow him to choose when he died. He saw no reason whatsoever to prolong the dying process. He lived a full and productive life, was at peace with family and friends, and wanted to choose the day on which he would fall asleep and never wake up. During his final weeks of life as he struggled with physical and mental function, he continued to ask me why he was deprived of dying the way he lived his life -- WITH DIGNITY. I had no good answer for him. PLEASE, provide me with a good answer. I implore you to give the residents of Connecticut who are terminally ill the right to die on their terms. Please.

With sincere appreciation of your consideration of this piece of legislation.

Lora A. Sporny

Stamford, CT