

17 South Road
Barkhamsted,CT
March 15, 2019

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am submitting testimony in OPPOSITION to H.B. 5898, An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients. I would like to urge you to vote against any legislation that pretends to provide "compassion" but really brings about an unnatural and often times painful death. True compassion involves adequate palliative care and making use of the incredible medications that help a terminal patient to manage his/her pain. With all of the legal drugs that are available, pain should not be listed as a reason for choosing suicide. In fact, most individuals list psychosocial concerns as a reason for wanting to end their lives. Terminal patients, just like healthy people, need LOVE. They need someone to talk to, someone who will listen and acknowledge their fears. Yes, they need help with their ADL's, but that does not render their lives useless. Individuals suffering with a terminal illness have something to offer us in their need. They offer us the opportunity to be truly compassionate...to put our love for them into action.

There are so many horrible and violent stories heard in the daily news every day. Wouldn't you agree that we need to focus on ways to increase the love in the world? "Compassion and Choices" type of legislation stifles love. The words sound good, but it is easy to see it is the "wolf in sheep's clothing." Not only does this kind of legislation deny love, it denies true **compassion**, which according to Webster is **sorrow for the sufferings or trouble of another with the urge to help**- not ending or helping another to end his /her life to end the pain.

This kind of legislation also requires a doctor to "do harm." This is something that should never be tolerated or worse, expected. Please vote in favor of terminal patients. Vote in favor of increased Hospice Care, more psychosocial interventions and more assistance for caretakers when a loved one faces a terminal illness. Please vote against any legislation that would allow Physician Assisted Suicide or Euthanasia in our state. I know you will think long and hard about your decision. If you are in favor of this kind of legislation, I ask that you pray long and hard about the issue. I pray that the Holy Spirit will fill you with the grace of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, prudence, fortitude, mercy and justice. May God bless you in your efforts to serve the people of this most beautiful state.

With love for life,

Laura Beckman