

Mar 17, 2019

Committee Member

Dear Member,

An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients (HB 5898) was introduced by Rep. John Steinberg and is being considered by the Joint Committee on Public Health. This legislation would allow mentally capable, terminally ill adults with six months or fewer to live the option to request and receive a doctor's prescription for medication they can decide to take to die peacefully if their suffering becomes unbearable. As your constituent, I ask that you support this important legislation.

For me, this issue is personal.

As a now non-practicing Elder Law Attorney, I can't tell you how often clients desperately wished to have the option to use medical aid in dying. They worry about their families, finances and, knowing that the end is near, want to end their lives in what they see as a dignified manner. Similar legislation is in place in many other states - please allow CT residents to avail themselves in choice in their final stages of life.

Seven states and the District of Columbia currently authorize medical aid in dying. Rep. Steinberg's legislation empowers terminally ill individuals to determine their end-of-life options. That power is in the in the hands of the patient, not the medical provider -- a critical safeguard that provides Connecticut residents with a transparent, regulated medical practice that ensures terminally ill individuals are protected.

Please support HB 5898: An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients.

Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Dale Lancaster
15 Mine Hill Rd
Redding, CT 06896-2701
(203) 438-7049
marydale@optonline.net