

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. I have been a nurse for over 40 years and have watched many people, of all ages, die painful deaths despite receiving Hospice care. To witness a death that the dying person has no control over is extremely difficult for the dying individual, the family and other caregivers. These are not peaceful deaths and should be unnecessary when the vast majority of people support medical aid in dying (MAID).

This is a personal issue for me also because I have friends and family who have died unfortunately painful deaths. I am additionally concerned about my own death. Currently, I would have to leave Connecticut to receive dignified MAID should I have a terminal illness that became unbearable. Please support HB 5898 and allow Connecticut residents to get the compassionate care they deserve and want

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 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,

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