

March 16, 2019

H.B. No. 5898

**AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS**

I am submitting testimony against this bill. As a current and former caregiver for elderly family members I am appalled at the potential ramifications that this bill would have, not only on the elderly, but also on society in general. As a society do we not value human life at all stages?

There is a current structure in place with hospice and palliative care to provide true aid in dying. Allowing physicians to prescribe lethal drugs for the purpose of ending human life, prescribing assisted suicide, is a prescription for murder. And, murder is a crime, is it not?

Why do we continue to pursue laws that would put some of the most vulnerable members of society at risk? Greedy relatives and conservators anxious to get inheritance money could take advantage by coercing their vulnerable elderly to take advantage of assisted suicide. Checks and balances? How would that be managed-it could not.

My own mother lived a beautiful life, but like many elderly she was overcome by a debilitating illness toward the end. She had very clearly outlined her direction to her children that she should not be kept alive via extraordinary means. At the right point in time, after consultation with her physicians, she entered a hospice program. She lived another 6 months in a comfortable caring environment and was in constant contact with loved ones and support staff from the hospice program.

I am asking all legislators to vote NO on this bill. Where does this end? Will you prevent me in the future from seeking medical care if I happen to reach the age of 90 or will you just kill me off?



Jacqui Gustafson  
114 Garfield Rd  
West Hartford, CT