

Mar 18, 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 already experienced cancer and a mild stroke. At age 72 I can expect more, not fewer, health challenges.

While I am still relatively healthy and able I want to make plans and decisions that put me in charge of my end-of-life care, including the option of ending my life if I am dying with a terrible quality of life and/or in dire pain. I like Vermont and Oregon but my home is here in Connecticut; I should not have to have the benefit of the option of aid in dying when I am terminally ill.

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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