

March 16, 2019

My name is Margaret Hart-Banach and I reside in Newington, Ct.

I am writing in opposition to H.B. 5898, An Act Concerning Aid In Dying For Terminally Ill Patients.

“Aid in dying” is not health care and this bill is inappropriately referred to the Public Health Committee since it has nothing to do with restoring health. Aid in dying is unequivocally aid in murder, which is in opposition to public health. The definition of health itself ought to be reason enough to eliminate further attempts to provide aid in dying. Health: the state of being free from illness or injury.

"he was restored to health" ·

synonyms:

good physical condition · [healthiness](#) · [fitness](#) · physical fitness · [well-being](#) · [haleness](#) · good trim · good shape · [robustness](#) · [strength](#) · [vigor](#) ·

- a person's mental or physical condition.

One cannot restore a person's health by aiding in dying Therefore, I ask you to dismiss this bill from this committee.

In addition, please consider the various atrocities have occurred in states where “Aid in Murder” has been passed. Many have testified to this. I respectfully request that you review the 2014 testimony of Eleanor Marchand, a Newington resident, who offered a compelling testimony regarding her mother's experience with aid in murder in the state of Oregon. Also, please revisit the previous testimonies of Barbara Jacobs each year, which have also been instructive.

Aid to dying eliminates extended family members from the possibility to reconcile differences with the dying and to provide comfort to them. This leaves behind family members with complicated grief, which increases the need for mental health care, which is antithetical to the goal of the public health.

The state of CT has no business approving of assistance to murder. This is not for the good of society but for the death of civility.

The State of CT would do better to provide consistent mental and spiritual care for those who are dying through hospice and through the patient's chosen pastoral care provider.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Margaret Hart-Banach