

I'd like to speak on behalf of HB5898. Death With Dignity Act

In the Spring of 2017 The front page of the Sunday NYTimes published a six page article about a distinguished Canadian who had recently taken advantage of a law permitting medical aid in dying. The article detailed how this law enabled him to end his life peacefully and with dignity. The Times received hundred of letters and mine was one of those chosen to print the following Sunday and I would like to read my response.

"I read about John Shields's last days with particular interest because my husband, Norman Lindsey, passed away in a hospice on May 19. The words of Mr. Shields's doctor, Stefanie Green, were particularly poignant for me. She said. "Give people good information and let them do what they think is best for their family."

We did not have that choice. I feel nothing but resentment and anger toward those in the CT Legislature who think it their right to prevent us from choosing how to end our life once told that we have a terminal illness with less than six months to live. Norman had lung disease, and I watched this lovely, vigorous, intelligent man lose his ability to walk even a few steps, use the bathroom, breathe without the aid of oxygen, read, eat, drink and speak.

As a woman cited in your article asked, "Who owns my life?"

Before Norman died we were having a conversation about medical aid in dying and my feelings about it. He said to me, "Well, do something about it." And so I'm here to ask you, please do something about it.

Thank you.
Anita Lindsey