

I am writing in support of HB 5898

H.B. 5898, the ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS

Velandy Manohar, MD

I can appreciate the misgivings of thoughtful proponents of and opponents of Aid In Dying legislation during this process of engagement and debate.

“It is essential to call on Physicians to provide education and inform the patient's decisions about their final journey while maintaining ethical and “engaged neutrality.” I believe this is essential because the absence of authentic, accurate, compassionate counsel and professional assistance to address the concerns of persons with significant challenges, perhaps even desperately worried about the final exit, may lead to tragic outcomes. History indicates that a lack of autonomy and informed care drives unsafe, illegitimate, and illegal alternatives. One of the most salient examples of this is the multitude of women impacted by unsafe “back alley” abortions prior to Roe v. Wade. Our terminally ill patients who have not been screened, received the required evaluation and signed the appropriate paper work, who are in pain, and are extremely concerned about their last moments have already begun to seek alternate routes on the Web to find solutions that can be risky and hurtful to the terminally ill person's dignity, health and wellbeing. The measures recommended can be medically unsound, harmful and even legally questionable, e.g.” acquiring a hood and inhaling gas that renders the person unconscious and over a period that stops the heart with unrecorded suffering.” I have explored these options on the Web.

Society has a responsibility to do more than we are currently doing to provide safe, legitimate, compassionate, and competent assistance in accordance with Aid in Dying Laws which are consistent with policy statement of the APHA, the recommendations of the revised AMA Code of Ethics with respect to compassionate end of life care and findings of Research on Successful Dying. I offer you these two
<https://ctmirror.org/.../ct-view.../what-makes-a-good-death/What> makes a good death? Perhaps it is time for Connecticut to allow patients and families to decide. Velandy Manohar, MD March 07, 2019
<https://ctmirror.org/.../death-with-dignity-a-widows-perspec.../>
“May we have agency over death, the last great act of life. March 08 2019” Deborah Howland-Murray

We need to continue to discuss what we in our hearts believe is Successful Dying, and what we are willing to live with in order to ensure every individual who is competent, has a terminal illness and chooses Aid in Dying has agency over their life and death and attain what in their mind heart and soul constitutes a good death

I don't see my response to the letter by Ms. D. Howland- Murray's letter and an addendum to my own OPED about one real live example of good death [of a terminally ill lady in Hospice] from the perspective of my patient, her family and my experience. I will be glad to send you my responses. To OPED in the CT. Mirror on this very poignant, powerful and emotionally stirring subject matter.

Velandy Manohar, MD