

Mar 15, 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 always believed that every individual should have the right, want it to choose aid in dying with proper medical assistance in a timely fashion when facing a terminally ill diagnosis. I think that making it legal in CT, as it is in other states now would allow people to stay in their home or home town, perhaps with their loved ones instead of trying to move elsewhere at a time when you are sick, weak, and just want the rest of your time with some quality of life left to enjoy. It is a curiosity to me that we can be so humane to our pets when the time comes, but not to ourselves. I understand that religions might not go along with this concept, but making it legal only allows the people who want to choose this option use it. It certainly doesn't mean that everyone will want the same option, but why deny those who do.

I took care of both of my parents during their sickness & to their deaths (I know they would not have chosen an option to use the death w/ dignity act) I also took care of an Aunt, and did a year of hands on patient assist at Hospice, so I feel very comfortable in saying, as a person without a medical background, I know what end of life looks like with many different scenarios.

I have given my daughter and husband my wishes, and hope that a legal option will be available to me when the time comes. I also can say honestly that as firmly as I believe that I should be allowed to choose a compassionate way to pass away, I won't know if I will want it at that time or if I'll fight like so many people do to stay on this earth as long as physically possible.

However, I do very much believe that I should have this choice to make, for myself and for my family. I hope that Connecticut will take the view point seriously, pass and allow our state to move forward on this issue as so many other states have. It is humane, it is the right thing to do, and could prevent people from taking these matters in to their own hands. I would like to be put to sleep the way I have honored my pets - the humane way! Please support HB-5898 Sincerely, Judy Mison

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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