

Mar 11, 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. My wife endured a long, lingering death early this year; all we could do was try to keep her comfortable. I should add that HB 5898 would have done her no good; she had Alzheimer's, and I cannot think of a regimen that would have allowed her to choose death with dignity as the end neared --even though we both had long championed that approach. I can only hope that when my time comes I am still competent to decide, and can spare my heirs the grief they and I shared in watching my wife endure a prolonged passing.

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 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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