

Mar 16, 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 had to watch my father die in complete and utter agony from terminal cancer. The massive doses of morphine towards the end provided no relief whatsoever. The pain medication combined with the toxins building up in his body led to an altered state with hallucinations and confusion. There was no peace in the end for him. There was only excruciating pain and a level of fear and confusion that I would liken to torture.

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,

Ms. Tiffany Witmer
156 Thunder Hill Dr
Stamford, CT 06902-1024
(203) 588-6666
t_witmer@yahoo.com