



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY REGARDING H.B. 6425, *AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS*

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee:

The CT Freedom Alliance, LLC writes to **oppose** H.B. 6425, *An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients*. The stated objective of this bill appears entirely noble, i.e., “To provide aid in dying to terminally ill patients.” If the actual objective of this bill were simply to provide greater means to assist terminally ill patients by providing comfort and care in the *natural* dying process, we would wholeheartedly support it. In reality, the bill is nothing more than a license to kill.

The first and most glaring problem with this legislation is that it allows only the patient’s health care providers to make the determination as to the patient’s mental competency to take his or her life, without any input from the ones who know the patient best—close family members. Once again, Connecticut legislators are seeking to substitute the judgment of health care practitioners for that of the family when it comes to making medical decisions that are literally life or death. This would create a framework that is rife for abuse.

And in fact the drafters of this bill recognize this. Section 14 of the bill establishes that a person who “wilfully alters or forges a request for aid in dying ... or conceals or destroys a rescission of such request for aid in dying ... [or] coerces or exerts undue influence on a patient to complete a request for aid in dying” shall be guilty of murder. This section is a grim preview of what will undoubtedly come to pass should this legislation be enacted. Were these not reasonably foreseeable scenarios, there would have been no need for the drafters to include them as examples of prohibited conduct. The existence of this section in the bill is, by itself, strong evidence that the risk of substantial harm that will result from its passage far outweighs any purported good.

Finally, this bill represents the ultimate “slippery slope.” In places where assisted suicide (the more accurate title for this legislation) has been legalized, unimaginable horrors have ensued. The Netherlands allows children as young as 12 to end their lives through euthanasia,

and in 2017 alone, 6,585 people legally died this way in the country.¹ In 2014, Belgium became the first country to remove any age restriction on assisted suicide, so that children of all ages may now elect to end their own lives.² And just two years after Canada legalized assisted suicide for adults, doctors at the world-renowned Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto are now calling for legislation that would allow children to end their lives without parental knowledge or consent.³ Do not say this cannot happen here. In each of these countries, so-called “aid in dying” was initially only granted to adults, before the push to extend the “privilege” to children followed.

This legislation is not only dangerous, it is diabolical. The CT Freedom Alliance pleads with the committee members to vote **no** on H.B. 6425.

1

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/euthanasia-clinic-suicide-depression-rape-anorexia-netherlands-teenager-noa-pothoven-a8944356.html>

2 <https://time.com/7565/belgium-euthanasia-law-children-assisted-suicide/>

3

<https://www.catholicregister.org/item/28133-assisted-suicide-plans-for-children-unveiled-at-toronto-s-sick-kids-hospital>