

**Name:** Mary Nagy

**Title:**

**Organization or Agency:**

**Topic:** HB06485 - AAC NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION AND GREEN BURIALS.

Opposes

**Testimony:**

Subject: Oppose HB 6485 An Act Concerning Natural Organic Reduction and Green Burials

Hello Legislators,

I write in opposition to HB 6485 An Act Concerning Natural Organic Reduction and Green Burials, to be heard before Environment Committee on January 30th 2023 at 10am. This testimony is against human composting (Section 2 of the bill), but not against green burials (Section 1).

First of all, the title of the bill is misleading, and refers to two separate processes. While most of the population of Connecticut might be opposed to human composting, the subject of green burials is completely different (even without legal definition at this time), and will not garner the same opposition. Green burials show respect to the human person and are the manner in which burials were conducted for generations. Green burials do not hasten the decomposition of the body but simply allow it. ([HTTPS://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/features/what-are-green burials](https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/features/what-are-green-burials)).

‘Natural organic reduction’ (NOR) is far from natural. NOR radically hastens the decay of the human body, grinding up remaining un-decomposed human tissue such as bones. This process promotes an extreme dehumanization of the final stages of human life (death and dying, and the separation of the soul from the body), and of the natural respect and care for the body of the deceased. NOR as defined in HB 6485 is human composting, which can be seen as the ultimate denial of the soul (<https://www.crisismagazine.com/opinion/human-composting:the-ultimate-denial-of-the-soul>) The bill states these human remains can later be spread in a scattering garden, with no assurance of any respect for the human body at all, treating it as merely a scrap of vegetable, plant or common animal matter for further decomposition, prey to the environment, with no rite of burial, a practice as old as time.

Secondly, this bill removes all reference to the sacredness of created human existence, and the hierarchy of humans (with souls) as above all other created beings. We are more than our carbon footprints. Why should Connecticut buy into this very un-natural and gruesome treatment of the human body, thereby forcing the funeral and cemetery industry to “sell” this as a legal, cheaper option? While the state and authors of this bill seek new legislation for human composting, no new legislation is required for green burials.

In closing, this Bill 6485 seeks to trick, deceive, and further devalue human life. The macabre practice of human composting will NOT provide an ultimate benefit to anyone, including the environment. Who is to gain from this?

Respectfully signed,

Mary Nagy, R.N.