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**Title:** Associate Editor

**Organization or Agency:** CatholicVote

**Topic:** SB01076 - AAC AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS.

Opposes

**Testimony:**

We are writing to oppose S.B. 88, the Assisted Suicide Bill. 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 problem with this legislation is that, in violation of basic medical standards, it allows healthcare professionals to use experimental drug combinations on patients to induce death by lethal drugs. According to The Atlantic: “No medical association oversees aid in dying, and no government committee helps fund the research...The doctors’ work {to experiment with drugs which kill patients} has taken place on the margins of traditional science. Despite their principled intentions, it’s a part of medicine that’s still practiced in the shadows.”

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/01/medical-aid-in-dying-medications/580591/>

More urgently, however, is the long-term effect of this bill on Connecticut’s most vulnerable populations.

The legalization of assisted suicide 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 now euthanasia accounts for over 4% of all deaths (as of 2019 statistics). 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. And just two years after Canada legalized assisted suicide for adults, doctors at the world-renowned Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto now have protocols for allowing suffering children to end their own lives without parental knowledge or consent. Do not say this cannot happen here. Once passed, assisted suicide bills will expand.

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. When a culture differentiates between lives worth living and lives worth ending, the consequences to vulnerable populations—the young, the old, the sick, and disabled—are disastrous.

Connecticut has historically been a pioneer in hospice care and compassionate palliative treatments. Let us embrace this heritage and reject the false promise of assisted suicide. Let us be a state that supports all the suffering and sick at their most vulnerable moments, empowering them to live life with heroism to the last moment.

Dr. Todd Ahern

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