Opposed to House Bill 1076

Dear Legislators,

I have read House Bill 1076, and agree with the opinions that Aid in Dying has great potential for misuse even if well intentioned, or worse, abuse. I acknowledge the person must be of sound mind and I appreciate the attempt at safeguards, such as preventing a conservator, power of attorney, or a guardian from making this decision. That said, if a person has any of these overseers of their affairs, by definition they are very likely not of sound mind. Why can't we focus on palliative care instead of punitive care? Hospice care is readily available throughout Connecticut, for both rich and poor. Would that not be a far more dignified way to aid people in dying? When I was a preteen, my father was diagnosed with cancer with a prognosis of 6 months to 1 year of life. He lived six more very productive years to see me graduate high school. Most decisions, however bad, can be undone or redone. Aid in Dying cannot be undone. Let us avoid the slippery slope of misuse or abuse. This Bill has been attempted for 10 years, each year trying to close the potential loopholes of misuse and abuse. Maybe 10 years of inability to adequately find suitable safeguards is the sign that this bill is not meant to be. Let’s pivot our efforts and resources to palliative care, which has decades of proven success.

Thank you!

Justin Murphy

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