

**Testimony on**  
*H.B. 5417 "An Act Concerning End-of-Life Care"*  
Before the Public Health Committee  
March 20, 2018

My name is Richard Dziura, of 172 Broad Street, Plainville, CT, and I am **testifying in opposition to H.B. 5417**. I agree with the American College of Physicians and the American Medical Association that physician-assisted suicide should not be allowed in our state and country. 'End-of-life care should be just that, care and comfort for those facing terminal illnesses, not an aide to end their life. We, as a society should work to support the emotional and physical needs of terminally ill patients. Unfortunately, allowing for physicians to prescribe drugs so that patients can kill themselves opens the door for the elderly and the disabled to feel themselves a burden to our society. Further, I believe this may lead to nefarious efforts to prey on depressed parties to convince them to end their lives as a means to reduce medical costs. When states, such as Oregon, have patients' insurance covering medication costs for physician-assisted suicide, but not cancer treatments, a dangerous situation results.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on the present bill, H.B. 5417, and all future bills providing for physician-assisted suicide.

Richard Dziura  
860-747-5451