

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Sharon Hines and I live at [600 Arbutus Street in Middletown](#). I fully support H.B. 5417. I am unable to be at the hearing on Tuesday because I have testing and an oncology appointment in New Haven.

For me, this issue is personal. I am a 62 year old oncology nurse practitioner with 40 years of experience; including 10 years in hospice, in caring for people with terminal cancer. I've been at enough bedsides of dying patients to know that despite the best hospice care, not every patient will have a peaceful death.

Out of the blue, ten years ago, I was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. With cutting edge research and clinical trials, I have outlived my prognosis beyond anyone's expectation. But as the cancer in my brain starts to grow again, I have limited options for treatment. The truth is, as my disease progresses, my quality of life will be significantly compromised. The breathlessness and cough that often accompanies advanced lung cancer will continue to worsen. Fluid in my lungs may require a permanent catheter being placed in my chest. Headaches, seizures, confusion, the inability to speak, move or care for myself, are all too real for me.

From day 1 of my diagnosis, my goal has been to have peace in my life and to have a peaceful ending. When I no longer have an acceptable quality of life, I want to know that medical aid in dying is available to me here in CT. CT is where I was born, went to school, college, married, raised my son, worked, and is also the place where I want to die, in my own home, and on my own terms. I hope my family and I would not have to endure a burdensome and disruptive move out of state, to an unfamiliar place in order to have access to a peaceful death.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story. I ask that you support H.B.5417.

Sincerely yours,

Sharon Hines MS, APRN