

March 20, 2018

Dear Co-Chair Steinberg , Co-Chair Gerratana, Co-Chair Somers, Vice Chair Kennedy, Vice Chair Logan, Vice Chair Borer, Ranking Member Srinivasan, and Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee,

Please accept this written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 5417, An Act Concerning End of Life Care.

As a retired small business owner and tax-paying resident of Connecticut, I request that you give your **SUPPORT** for House Bill 5417.

At the core of this bill is protection for the right to choose and receive the benefit of professional medical knowledge, skill, and technology to alleviate or end suffering at the end of life. Indeed, it is most compassionate and humane to give the dying more control in their final days in association with caring physicians.

We will all face death at some point. How much better to secure now the rights for ourselves and future generations to receive and expand options for aid in dying. The options as described in this bill can help patients prevent unwanted medical interventions that needlessly prolong life and suffering during terminal illness. To honor the dying is to offer love and compassionate support for an individual's end of life wishes.

As described in HB5417, Connecticut can help lead the way as more and more states will affirm the legal right of an individual to aid in dying with the support of their physicians. PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT to this bill so those who live and pay taxes in this state can have enlightened choices for end of life care. Let's not give Connecticut residents another reason to move out of state.

Sincerely,

Stephen Kitts

Haddam, CT