

Dear Public Health Committee:

My name is Jacqueline Reiss and I am a concerned citizen. As a college student, I am unable to attend the hearing in person, but I would like to voice my opinion via email. I oppose the Raised Bill No. 5417 "AN ACT CONCERNING END-OF-LIFE CARE."

I oppose this bill for four specific reasons:

1. Terminal prognosis are often wrong in type, degree, or length. Terminal prognosis can be wrong in type of diagnosis. Certain prognosis can also be incorrect in its estimated degree of fatality. Patients can also outlive their diagnoses by months or years, and I know of several such people.
2. Physician-assisted suicide can become another type of treatment in which healthcare providers and state healthcare plans may choose to pursue due to its lower cost. In a cost-conscious healthcare environment, lower cost "healthcare" alternatives become more attractive when compared to higher cost "healthcare" options. In cases of terminal prognosis, the lower cost "healthcare" alternative may quickly become physician-assisted suicide, and there are examples of this already noted in the United States. It is obvious that keeping someone with a terminal prognosis alive is likely expensive, and life-affirming healthcare options may quickly become disregarded if physician-assisted suicide is made legal in the State of Connecticut.
3. As soon as physician-assisted suicide is made legal for one reason (such as in cases of terminal prognosis), it may quickly become legal for other reasons, including cases with children or none terminal prognoses.
4. Suicide – in any form – is the least hopeful option anyone has when faced with a misfortune. The individual who commits suicide is impacted (through premature natural death), but his or her family and community is also impacted. When we are faced with something extremely difficult in life, we must hope in spite of hope to make it through and use the moments of happiness to encourage us on. Suicide robs individuals of their inherent human dignity and the hopeful human spirit that we all recognize makes us one-of-a-kind.

Please take into consideration my comments and my reasons for opposing the Raised Bill No. 5417 "AN ACT CONCERNING END-OF-LIFE CARE."

Thank you,
Jacqueline Reiss