



Date:

Dear Legislator _____:

I respectfully request that you oppose any legislation that would legalize assisted suicide/euthanasia, also known as "Medical Aid in Dying." Legalizing assisted suicide is the deliberate and direct act of making a person dead.

Assisted suicide sends a dangerous message to society that allows a person with years to live, to end his or her life. These bills offer choice and self-control, but also offer no oversight to protect the person once they take the lethal drug home. Of further concern are fraud and abuse of the law. The high potential for duress under this act presents an extremely serious threat, to all populations.

There are studies coming out of Switzerland, that show Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome is suffered by those family members who watch their loved ones take the lethal drug for assisting their own suicide.

Rather than assisting suicide or euthanasia, please continue your efforts to prevent suicide. It is illogical for the state to promote/facilitate suicide for one group of persons — calling the suicides of those with years to live and a specific prognosis "dignified and humane," --- while recognizing suicide as a serious statewide public health concern in all other circumstances, and spending enormous resources to combat it.

New York State Task Force For Life, did an examination and issued a report:

"The Task Force unanimously recommended that New York Laws prohibiting assisted suicide and euthanasia should not be changed. The report begins by examining the epidemiology of suicide, including the reasons that people commit suicide, the capacity of medicine to respond to some of those underlying reasons, and its widespread failure to do so. The report also analyzes in depth the criminal and common law that applies to suicide assistance and euthanasia, as well as the constitutional law. The second half of the report explains the Task Force's conclusion that the existing legal prohibition on assisted suicide should not be changed. In addition, it sets forth the principles that should animate professional medical standards in this area, and proposes policies to enhance the treatment provided to dying and incurably ill patients. The Task Force also presents specific recommendations for modifying New York statutes and regulations on controlled substances, to increase the availability of medically necessary analgesic medications, including opioids.

In essence, the Task Force proposed a clear line for public policy and medical practice between forgoing medical interventions and assisting suicide or euthanasia. Decisions to forgo treatment are an integral part of medical practice. By contrast, American society has never sanctioned assisted suicide or mercy killing. The Task Force concluded that legalizing the practices would be profoundly dangerous for many patients who are ill and vulnerable, especially in light of the widespread failure of American medicine to treat pain adequately or to diagnose and treat depression. Untreated pain and depression are the two most common factors that lead terminally ill patients to think about suicide. The risks would be most extraordinary for individuals whose autonomy and well-being are already compromised by poverty, lack of access to good medical care, or membership in a stigmatized social group." Retrieved from NY State Task Force:

https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/task_force/reports_publications/#euthanasia

I look forward to your response on this issue.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____
