

MARYLAND

AGAINST PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

Legislation has been introduced in the Maryland General Assembly (HB 1021/SB 676) to allow doctors to legally prescribe a lethal dose of medicine to a patient who is deemed mentally competent and who has received a terminal diagnosis. The legislation, referred to by its proponents as “death with dignity” is unnecessary, flawed, and lacks safeguards. The General Assembly may act on this bill very quickly. The legislative session ends on April 13th.

Who is Supporting This Legislation?

The legislation is part of an aggressive, national effort to legalize physician assisted suicide in states across the country led by a group called “Compassion and Choices”, formerly known as the “Hemlock Society.”

Why Should You Oppose this Bill?

1. The proposed legislation lacks safeguards and poses a safety risk to patients.
2. The legislation does not require doctors to give patients a screening for depression before providing physician assisted suicide.
3. Patients can request physician-assisted suicide if a doctor has diagnosed them with a terminal illness and six months or less to live. Such a prognosis is nearly impossible to accurately predict.
4. No doctor, nurse, or independent witness is present when the lethal dose is taken.
5. People will pick up their lethal prescription at their local pharmacy.
6. There is no requirement to notify family members that you plan on taking a lethal medication
7. This is the first time legislation like this has been proposed in Maryland. The General Assembly cannot possibly make such a weighty decision in two months.

Who Else is Opposed to This Bill?

Disability advocates, members of the medical community, patient advocates, and religious organizations have joined together to advocate against physician assisted suicide legislation in Maryland.

How Can You Help Today?

We need your help right away to ensure this dangerous bill does not pass.

Visit www.StopAssistedSuicideMD.org today to learn more about the effort to defeat this legislation and to find ways that you can help including joining the coalition, contacting your legislator, and sharing this information with your friends and family.

Questions?

Web: www.StopAssistedSuicideMD.org

Email: campaign@StopAssistedSuicideMD.org

Twitter: @StopPASMaryland

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