

I have been a Family Physician and taking care of the elderly for over 30 years in Minnesota. Many of my patients I help through hospice care and death and dying.

I OPPOSE PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE!

Physician assisted suicide is wrong in principle, and violates the duty of a physician, which is to preserve life and care for the patient.

Minnesota House file 1930 (HF1930), authored by Mr. Mike Freiberg and others, provides legal protection to doctors who prescribe deadly doses of drugs to hasten the death of patients. This legislation is a project of individuals, and of "Compassion and Choices", whose goal is to legalize assisted suicide.

Our patients are not asking us for this!

We need to:

- 1.) support the Hospice movement in helping patients in their last stages of death and dying, which include Comfort cares Not actively giving them something to end their life!
- 2.) continue to pursue only treatments that help the patient, but do not end their lives.
- 3.) of course in a terminal situation, we should withdraw any treatments that are unnecessary and only prolong life.

So often as a family doctor in primary care, I don't know the exact prognosis of each illness. It is my duty to guide the patient through the process, and not predict their death, and certainly not give them anything to end their lives!

The AMA does not support physician assisted suicide.

While states such as Oregon collect information on the practice, some questions cannot be adequately answered by available data. In the case of a patient who receives a prescription for deadly drugs but changes their mind and does not use them, it is not possible to know if someone else uses the drugs.

Patients will feel coerced, especially when some potential treatments are more expensive than poisons to end their lives.

We know that in many past societies and countries, physicians have become the tools for a society that looks upon the dying and the disabled as unwanted and offers them tools to end their lives.

This is not the duty of doctors!

We as Physicians, are a profession esteemed for healing, but can be corrupted into hastening death. Conscience obligates us to oppose laws which are contrary to the common good. I oppose this legislation.

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