Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the legalization of physician-assisted suicide. In my view, resorting to death as a means to alleviate suffering is morally unacceptable, as it amounts to an act of murder and runs counter to the inherent dignity of every human person.

My concerns delve into the potential ramifications of empowering physicians to assess the hopelessness or potential of individuals' lives, gauge the quality of life, and make prognoses. By granting physicians the authority to conduct psychological evaluations and determine terminal conditions, they effectively become gatekeepers in matters of life and death.

Several points underscore my stance:

1.     **Redundancy of Legislation:** Existing legislation already equips physicians with the tools to alleviate severe pain without the need for additional measures. Licensing doctors to administer lethal drugs diverges fundamentally from the compassionate act of withdrawing ineffective life-sustaining treatment. The primary role of doctors should be to support patients in living as well and comfortably as possible until natural death, rather than intentionally hastening their demise.

2.     **Focus on Training:** Mandatory training for all medical professionals should emphasize the importance of independent living, maintenance care, and assistance services, not limited to acute medical care alone. This broader perspective ensures a comprehensive approach to healthcare, recognizing the diverse needs of patients beyond immediate medical concerns.

3.     **Emphasis on End-of-Life Care:** Rather than endorsing assisted dying, efforts should be redirected towards enhancing end-of-life care, hospice services, and palliative care. By investing in these aspects, we can provide compassionate support to individuals nearing the end of their lives, ensuring comfort and dignity in their final moments.

4.     **Support for Suicidal Persons:** Instead of offering support for ending lives, our focus should be on extending assistance and understanding to individuals grappling with suicidal thoughts. A compassionate approach involves addressing their situations, providing support, and helping them navigate through difficult times.

5.     **Addressing Fear of the Unknown:** It is essential to acknowledge and discuss the fear of the unknown that often paralyzes people. By initiating open conversations and fostering understanding, we can develop logical plans of action that address concerns and dispel fears.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Jennifer Gansler
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