

February 16, 2023

Re: Endorsement of HF 474

Dear Representative John Huot and Committee Members,

On behalf of Compassion & Choices, the nation's oldest, largest, and most active consumer-based nonprofit working to improve care and expand options at life's end, we strongly support the [HF 474- relating to health; requiring the commissioner of health to study issues related to the development of a statewide registry for provider orders for life-sustaining treatment; requiring a report.](#)

HF 474 is an important step toward ensuring more people in Minnesota receive the end-of-life care that aligns with their values and priorities. Throughout the country, we have seen many states begin to create POLST, or physician/provider orders for life-sustaining treatment, registries. POLST forms are an effective tool for ensuring that people are the directors of their end-of-life care. These registries allow their healthcare providers to have easy access to their end-of-life wishes, better ensuring that they can easily honor their patient's wishes.

One study found that, among a sample of patients, those with a POLST that their providers acknowledge and that outlined limitations with treatment had fewer ICU days without increased in-hospital mortality as compared with other patients.¹ Creation of a POLST registry will increase the likelihood that providers will be aware of and comply with POLSTs.

This bill is an important first step to creating a POLST registry. By exploring best practices for a POLST registry through the use of an advisory committee, the Commissioner of Health's report will inform the legislature and the eventual establishment of a POLST registry.

Compassion & Choices strongly supports passage of HF 474. If we can provide any assistance, please contact Dr. Rebecca Thoman, Doctors for Dignity Program Director at rthoman@compassioandchoices.org or 615-402-0074.

Sincerely,



Kim Callinan
President & CEO
Compassion & Choices



Rebecca Thoman, M.D.
Doctors for Dignity Program Director
Compassion & Choices

¹ Ballou JH, Dewey EN, Zonies DH. [Elderly patients presenting to a Level I trauma center with Physician Orders for a Life-Sustaining Treatment form: A propensity-matched analysis.](#) 2019. J Trauma Acute Care Surg 87(1): 153-160.