

Dear Minnesota Representatives,

I strongly urge that you oppose HF 1930/SF 1813, that would legalize physician-assisted suicide in Minnesota.

Assisted suicide would have irreversible implications on the patient-physician relationship as well as the wider healthcare system in Minnesota. Doctors pledge to uphold the utmost respect for human life, and people expect physicians to help them, not harm them. If assisted suicide were legal, it would be harder for people to trust that doctors will always prioritize life-enhancing treatment.

I recently went through a terrifying experience watching the complete and utter disregard for my father, Donald Richardson, after he received a cancer diagnosis while under the care of the staff at Farmstead Assisted Living in Moorhead, MN. This was not isolated to just Farmstead, but was a widespread problem between the contracted primary care at Farmstead, as well as the doctors, and staff at Sanford. Had it not been for their neglect and outright abuse, he would have had longer to live. That matters. There was a distinct shift in the approach and communication once the cancer diagnosis was official. I can't help but think that should we legalize assisted suicide in Minnesota, stories like mine, will be widespread. Families and patients that want to enable life will be disregarded and bullied into making irrevocable decisions. It is already happening. There is a [wrongful death lawsuit currently](#) against HealthPartners due to the hospital protocols during the CoVid pandemic. Minnesota healthcare is on the brink of becoming a death enabling juggernaut. Do we really want to further incentivize these hospitals, doctors, and nurses to view their job as a means to expedite death and ensure profit? Are we ready for the consequences to our healthcare system and to our wider society? That is what you have to ask yourself. Ignore the euphemisms from the proponents of this legislation. What they seek to do is not care. Look to the other countries that have passed similar legislation like Canada and the Netherlands to see the outcome.

Let's advance real care that supports a physician's oath to do no harm and builds up the patient-doctor trust. Let's be a state that enhances and supports life and life affirming decisions rather than being a culture of death.

Please oppose efforts to legalize physician assisted suicide.

Sincerely,  
Elsa Blomgren  
Maplewood, MN 55117