

Good afternoon,

My name is Christine Broszko, MD of Blaine, MN- District 32/32B. **I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed bill HF1930. I stand firmly against legalization of physician assisted suicide.** As a full-time, outpatient family medicine physician, I know firsthand H.F. 1930 will further degrade trust in the patient/physician relationship.

In my practice, I have worked hand-in-hand with many patients of varying ages and demographics who were considering suicide; as their doctor, my job is to help them understand their own dignity as a human person and why they shouldn't take the fatal step of ending their own life. It is astounding to me that proposal H.F. 1930 would flip this current standard of care on its head, completely undermining the principle of "do no harm," and actually facilitate patients ending their own lives.

When patients receive the worst news of their lives—that they have a potentially terminal illness—the last thing they need is for their trusted physician to prescribe a facilitated overdose. It seems obvious that introducing this as an option in medical practice in Minnesota will do irreparable harm to patient-physician trust. How could a patient be sure that their doctor has their best interests at heart? How could they know if the doctor, God forbid, wants to "move things along" to ease hospital bed capacity or financial burdens? **In the last few years I have seen a serious degradation of trust in the medical world.** I have a hard enough time talking to my patients about getting their vaccines! Introducing the idea of physicians purposely overdosing their patients will further erode trust in our medical institutions and is completely counterintuitive to the Hippocratic that I took. **The American Medical Association similarly recognizes the damage proposals like these do to the physician/patient relationship and stands staunchly in opposition to physician assisted suicide.**

I see patients grappling with life altering diagnoses on a near-daily basis. People who have received the worst news of their life and they need to know "what now?" **In 10 years of practice, including multiple nursing homes, I have never been asked to end someone's life, nor felt it necessary to even consider.** Instead, I am grateful that I have gotten to walk with these patients in these difficult journeys, and been able to see many of them survive their conditions and come out the other side - **changed.**

When people are experiencing what could be terminal illness, there are so many pressures that weigh on their hearts and minds – pain, cost, burden on others, etc. They are extremely vulnerable and in these situations, the last thing that physicians should be offering is an opportunity for an overdose. In short, doctors should treat the illness, ease the symptoms, and walk with the patient—not be the ones to hand them a noose and wish them luck.

What if it was you? Your mother? Your spouse? What kind of care would you want?

Stand against this lobbyist pressure. Protect the most vulnerable Minnesotans and the future of our state's medical care.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christine Broszko, MD