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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION (SB701)

A vocabulary modification is often made to make the unpalatable acceptable. Suicide is murder just as homicide is. The difference is that obviously a successful suicide cannot be punished. An unsuccessful attempt may result in physical injury or maiming. It may also expose injury that is psychological or mental. In both cases, the results may be deemed punishment enough.

Regardless of the cosmetic characterization herein employed, placing the word "option" behind the words "end of life" is not a vocabulary change sufficient to change the fact that the act is murder, nor make it acceptable. Similarly, the words "assisted suicide" have the same connotation.

Indeed, any person heretofore "assisting" in a suicide can be held to have participated in a criminal conspiracy. That is the reason that such an individual can currently be prosecuted however much they claim that the crime was an act of mercy to end suffering and/or at the request of the victim.

This bill, denominated "end of life option" is state-sanctioned murder. That is immoral and wrong. However, the very existence of this proposed legislation shows a depthless dearth of concern and/ or consciousness of those two tenets by its proponents.

Regrettably, a person seeking to end their life does not require a law providing instruction to do so. There are numerous ways a person can end their lives without being given a poison prescription.

A person can simply refuse continued medical care or nourishment. However, with end of life options in place, such individual might likely be urged to hurry things along and therefore get assistance. The requirement of prescribed poison in this bill suggests that it is designed to put the medical imprimatur on this travesty.

At law existing now, such approach by those wanting to terminate their lives to end suffering or the possibility of burdening their families can be formalized by the person having signed a medical power of attorney. It is recommended that it be prepared and signed when people are in good health and of sound mind. Such action is strongly urged by estate planning professionals, health care professionals, and experts in the field of aging in both public and private forums. However, should the person change their mind, the directive can be rescinded.

Undoubtedly, if the bill passes a later amendment will be proposed to make any method of self-murder legal. Indeed, in practice, the right to die will evolve into the duty to die for speciously stated reasons such as controlling climate change and addressing over-population.

None of the steps listed and signatures required, etc. in the bill can provide sufficient safety checks to preclude fatal error in a matter for that which is totally unacceptable and incapable of remedy. Rather, they open the door to abuse, oppression, fraud, and bad faith acts against the vulnerable.

This bill invites and promotes murder pure and simple. Those who would eagerly and enthusiastically embrace this bill's passage should give pause. Future age and infirmity prior to mortality will indiscriminately come to many. Amongst those will be some that this bill will allow to become the victims of "assisted suicide" through coercion, collusion, or conspiracy.

To paraphrase the words of Ernest Hemingway. "Do not ask for whom the bell tolls. It [also] tolls for thee."