

I OPPOSE Assisted Suicide. It creates a bad policy for the citizens of Maryland. It has dangerous and careless provisions with a strong economic incentive to deny treatment to patients in crisis. No legislation can ever be a solution when doctors cannot accurately predict a terminal diagnosis.

I am amazed at your supposed empathy for patients when, in fact, the opposition against family notification is required. Where is your empathy when no doctor or nurse is required to be present when the patient ingests the lethal dose and something goes wrong?

Legalizing Assisted Suicide enables health insurance and medical providers to deny life sustaining care to patients and evade liability for the death of patients - as if they need more incentive to deny benefits! There are no standard requirements that each patient receive mental health screening and counseling and a screening from a doctor untrained in mental health is not sufficient to assess a patient's true needs. There are no safeguards to ensure the unused drugs stay out of the hands of children and prescription drug dealers. This is particularly irresponsible, as we are experiencing an opioid crisis nationwide.

To the most vulnerable, including the poor and those with disabilities, a right to die may become a responsibility to die.

Determining your action to make suicide socially acceptable thus increasing suicide rates, your action against patients in crisis, their family, their child(ren), and the overall lack of true informed consent, I and countless other Maryland residents, respected physicians, the faith community, and leading advocacy from all corners of the state, I OPPOSE this legislation.