

Regarding End of Life Option SB 443

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I oppose the so-called "End of Life Option" better known as Assisted Suicide. While it seems compassionate, in practice it has resulted in many abuses. Where Assisted Suicide has been legalized, with time it was extended to minors, even without parental consent, and to those suffering from mental health issues as minor as depression. Disability rights groups recognize the many dangers the bill poses to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

People thinking about suicide should receive counselling and the reasons for wanting to commit suicide should be addressed and other solutions found.

There is also the problem of the suicide pills falling into the wrong hands. Many individuals who fill the lethal prescription-typically 100 pills, decide against taking it and the drugs can then be misused. This is particularly irresponsible, as we are experiencing an opioid crisis nationwide.

Assisted Suicide laws make suicide socially acceptable and where it has been legalized patients are encouraged to kill themselves rather than be approved for expensive medical treatments.

Therefore I urge you to oppose legislation to legalize Assisted Suicide.