

I strongly oppose the bill entitled “**End-of-Life-Option Act**” (SB0443) for the following reasons:

1. It legalizes helping vulnerable and terminally ill people kill themselves. Suicide is always wrong and suicidal ideation is a medical condition requiring evaluation and treatment, not its acceptance or promotion.
2. The bill normalizes and “mainstreams” suicide under some circumstances, inevitably leading to increased suicide rates in the general population. This “suicide contagion” has been documented in states where physician assisted suicide is legal.
3. The bill will undermine trust in medical professionals. It perverts the life-preserving and health-promoting mission of medical care providers by turning them into suicide enablers for vulnerable people who trusted them.
4. The bill requires health care providers to lie when signing the death certificate: they must certify the manner of death as due to natural causes, instead of suicide, the true cause.
5. The very name of the proposed bill, “End-of-Life Option”, and the use of terms such as “aid in dying” in the bill’s text appear deceptive. They conflate *end of life or dying*, the eventual fate for all of us, with complicity in *ending a life or killing*.

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