

In support of SB1029

My name is David Zinner. I'm very familiar with health care issues because I'm 74.

I have a will, but it was written 15 years ago. I should review it because it may not completely reflect my recent experience and my (hopefully) increase in knowledge.

Why is it that written wills do not always fully capture our intent?

Sometimes it is because the cost of drawing up, or even modifying, a will with a lawyer can be prohibitive. Sometimes, as in my case, wills are written long before a death and not updated.

In these and other cases, it is critical that the executor of the will should be able to clarify the deceased's intent without contradicting what is written. After all, if I trust my executor to fulfill my wishes, I should also trust them to know me, to know my work and my interests.

Where the issue of intent in a will becomes especially complex, is in the area of health care charities. Unfortunately, some charitable organizations in the health sector have shown a lack of understanding of the prevalence of health disparities.

Disparities do exist and studies show this is not an isolated issue. For example:

- An American Hospital Association 2024 study released a survey that showed that about half of U.S. health care workers have witnessed racial discrimination against patients.
- A 2025 Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) article concluded that more socially vulnerable and racially and ethnically minoritized communities are receiving less community benefit spending by nonprofit hospitals
- A 2024 study on Diversity and Discrimination in Health Care suggests the need for better education of healthcare professionals on the impact of health disparities.

Nationally, health charities received \$38 billion in 2020 growing to \$51 billion in 2022. It is important that health related charities recognize health disparities, and use this tremendous amount of charitable support to prioritize addressing this critical issue.

And in the case of health-related bequests, the ability of the executor to ensure that donations fulfill the intent of the deceased is especially important.

Please support SB1029.

David Zinner

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