

# ***ACTION ALERT!***

## **Stop SB 481 - Stop Stealth Euthanasia !**

February 2018

**Sacramento** - State Senate bill SB 481, *Long-term health facilities: informed consent* (Pan) specifies in detail the procedure for informing a resident in a long-term health facility that he or she lacks capacity to make health care decisions and under certain circumstances the facility will make those decisions for the resident. **Those decisions include the use of “medical interventions” such as physician assisted suicide and withholding nutrition and hydration. They are lethal.**

SB 481 addresses section 1418.8 of the California Health and Safety Code, which has been found to be unconstitutional by the Alameda County Superior Court for the very reason of not providing due process of law protection when a person’s life is at stake. That court decision has been stayed, allowing defective section 1418.8 to remain in effect until the court decision can be reviewed. **Thus, SB 481 is building on an unsettled foundation. It is untimely.**

The dangers of SB 481 are subtle, but profound. The bill addresses only one of several court-noted deficiencies of section 1418.8, that of inadequate communication with the resident. Despite requests to the bill author (Senator Pan), SB 481 does not correct the far greater deficiency in due process by excluding both physician assisted suicide and withholding nutrition and hydration from “medical interventions” decisions made for the resident. This is stealth euthanasia.

The California ProLife Council states that this bill should explicitly prohibit any “terminal medicine” or the removal of life-sustaining treatment and at a minimum the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and County Adult Protective Services should be notified of a decision of resident incompetence.

### ***TAKE ACTION!***

**SB 481 passed the Senate last year on a party-line vote: Rep - No, Dem - Yes. SB 481 could be advanced in the Assembly by the bill author at any time.**

**Contact and urge your state Assembly Member to OPPOSE SB 481. The bill does not address nor constrain the inherent flaw of Health and Safety Code section 1418.8 which opens stealth euthanasia for incapacitated victims. SB 481 builds on bad law.**

Make calls now to your Assembly Member’s district and Sacramento offices and leave a message of opposition to SB 481. Find your Assembly Member and contact information at <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>