

Why We Oppose This Law

ABX 2-15 should be rejected for the following reasons:

- For the first time in California history, medicine would be authorized to be a lethal tool on a patient.
- The measure actually failed in normal legislative procedure, but was forced through in an extraordinary process that was established solely for the purpose of saving MediCal money.
- Depression coupled with a terminal diagnosis, not an unusual combination, would make such patients eligible for the medical arts to knowingly be used to kill them. Clinical depression is easily masked by other illness and emotions. Under this measure, the patient does NOT die from an underlying illness, they instead die from intentional poisoning.
- The desire for suicide is the #1 indicator of depression. This authorizes lethal action while the patient is still wrestling with the 5 stages of emotional grief, and it precludes them from coming to the most important, final stage of "Acceptance."
- The drugs used are vaguely unspecified and unless those used to execute individuals convicted of capital crimes, drugs prescribed by physician often result in overdose complications. In other jurisdictions, this has required third party involvement to complete the intentional killing, or leaves the tragedy of an incapacitated patient.
- In every jurisdiction throughout the world where similar law has gone into effect, such complications have arisen. Because of the now 'secreted' act of legalized killing, abuses have proven impossible to prevent.
- Oregon records admit to misdiagnoses and the fallacy of accurately diagnosing death within a 6-month time frame; Oregon states that patients administered poison up to 2 years after it was prescribed.
- The pain-management resources are available for the most difficult of cancers, and now more widely than at any time in human history. Oregon studies have admitted that intentional self-killing is not even employed to treat pain, but to treat fear of the unknown future, underscoring that the suicide is in reaction to one of the 4 stages of Denial/Anger/Bargaining or Despair.

You may find detailed references to the above statements at the following research sites:

<http://dredf.org/public-policy/assisted-suicide/some-oregon-assisted-suicide-abuses-and-complications/>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3070710/>

Cordially Yours,

Mark Hoffman, PhD
Clinical Psychologist

<http://stopassistedsuicide.com>