



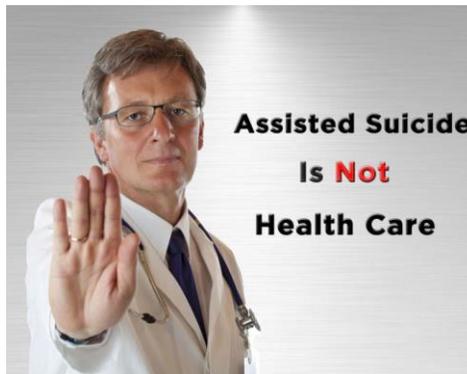
MAINE RIGHT TO
LIFE COMMITTEE



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URGENT!
Stop Doctor Prescribed Suicide in Maine!



NO on LD 1313

We need you to call your local Maine legislators NOW, and ask them to oppose the Doctor Prescribed Suicide bill, LD 1313,

An Act to Enact the Death with Dignity Act ([LD1313](#)).

We have just heard this bill is on the House Calendar to be voted upon as early as tomorrow, May 21, with the Senate vote following shortly thereafter. We are hoping the vote for this bill will be delayed in both chambers until sometime next week.

This bill is bad for Maine and our citizens. **Please CALL your Maine Rep tonight if at all possible on the toll free number 1-800-423-2900 and leave a message asking for them to oppose LD 1313.** Otherwise, you can call the

numbers listed below to reach your local Maine Rep and local Maine Senator as soon as you possibly can.

Maine House: 287-1400

Maine Senate: 287-1540

[Find your Rep](#)

[Find your Senator](#)

The bill came out of the Health and Human Services Committee with a Divided Report of 7 supporting the bill; 6 opposing the bill. **This is a bi-partisan issue.**

Although proponents of LD 1313 tout the safeguards of the bill, LD 1313 is filled with dangerous loopholes. **How can introducing suicide as a medical option in a broken health care delivery system be considered sound or compassionate public policy?**

The American Medical Association has stated that Physician Assisted Suicide is *"fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult if not impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks."*

Be sure to state your name and town when contacting your legislators to oppose LD 1313. Here are some talking points you can use:

- *Doctor Prescribed Suicide is a deadly mix with our broken, profit-driven health care system. Will the government and insurance companies do the right thing---pay for treatment costing thousands of dollars----or the cheap thing---pay for lethal drugs costing a fraction of the cost of real health care treatment?*
- *"Choice" is an illusion. If enacted, the **last** to be offered medical treatment could become the **first** to receive Doctor Prescribed Suicide. A woman in Oregon (Barbara Wagner) was denied chemotherapy, but offered Physician Assisted Suicide instead. In April 2017, Stephanie Packer from California reported that her insurance company refused to pay for life-sustaining treatment,, but would pay for lethal drugs to kill herself; for a \$1.20 co-pay. Packer told Maine's WGME, "They won't pay for me to spend time with my kids, but for a buck, I can kill myself." [See WGME news report 04/04/2017](#)*
- *Assisted Suicide laws lead to a '**duty to die**' mentality. Concerns about health care costs or fear of being a burden may put pressure on patients to request lethal drugs. According to reports from Oregon **nearly half of patients who died using the state's assisted suicide law did so to avoid being a burden on their family, friends, and caregivers.***

- *Maine has the eldest population in the USA. Assisted Suicide is a recipe for elder abuse. **Already, there are over 33,000 elders abused in Maine each year.***
- *There are too many loopholes in the bill, filled with unintended consequences. For instance, what would passage of such a bill say to our vulnerable teens----that some suicide is ok, while other suicide is not ok?*
- *Doctor Prescribe Suicide is dangerous to people with disabilities and many other people in vulnerable circumstances. It puts lethal drugs into the hands of potential abusers who may also be heirs and could administer the poisonous drugs without the patients' knowledge or consent.*
- *No witnesses are required once the lethal drugs leave the pharmacy, and there is no oversight after the RX is filled. Why introduce this bill in the middle of an opioid epidemic?*
- *Kill the bill, not the patient. Maine people deserve our best medical treatment such as hospice and palliative care. Ingesting 90-100 lethal pills is not compassionate nor caring.*

Please contact your representatives in the Maine Legislature and tell them, "NO!" to Doctor Prescribed Suicide. It's just too dangerous for Maine.

ACT NOW! We need you to speak up for the vulnerable! We need to stop this lethal bill in its tracks!

Your Friends at Maine Right to Life Committee



Maine Right to Life Committee

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