

I am not in favor of this proposed legislation. All sorts of reasons prevent me from supporting it. Specifically, it is too broadly written and without strict legal procedures of how mental competence is to be assessed or whether the direness of the disease is agreed to and recorded by more than one physician. Without substantiation how is the coroner to know whether this death is from "natural causes," suicide, or even murder. Perhaps the patient becomes mentally incompetent and someone decides for him/her to administer the medication. The scenarios for abuse and misuse of this legislation by patient, doctor, friend and family are too numerous to ignore.

I favor educating everyone, no matter their age, about not only having a living will but how to enforce it. That includes educating family and medical personnel to forego procedures which prolong but will not enhance life or perhaps end it.

Legalizing what is essentially suicide makes the prescribing doctor complicit. Further, it opens the door to misdiagnosis as well as misuse of the drug/s. Having such drugs in your medicine cabinet or elsewhere in your home is, to me, like having a loaded gun in your clothes closet.

In all probability, should this legislation pass, it will be rarely invoked. Doctors would be, I should hope, very wary of making the necessary diagnosis. Disease outcomes are not always predictable. Nor is mental competence.

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