

April 7, 2019

Please Call Monday to Defeat the “Aid in Dying” Bill

On Monday, March 25, the New Jersey Assembly voted to pass the Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act (A1504/S1072). Governor Murphy has not yet signed the bill. We understand he is waiting to count the number of emails and phone calls received on both sides of this issue before making a decision.

Please call and / or email the Governor on Monday at (609) 292-6000 and urge him to veto the "Aid in Dying" bill. The call will take perhaps 1-2 minutes of your time. You will not be asked to provide anything more than your name, and perhaps municipality.

If passed, the Bill will allow people judged to be terminally ill to self-administer medication to end their lives. It will allow doctors to prescribe a “suicide pill” instead of providing healthcare.

There are many reasons to oppose this bill:

- Our faith, according to the fifth commandment, does not permit suicide
- Several professional organizations, including the American Medical Association oppose assisted suicide because there is no exact science to predict when death will occur. There are many instances where patients have recovered from what was deemed to be an imminent death only to go on to live productively for months, or even years longer
- Emotions, driven by fear of the unknown, of pain, of being a burden, can drive a patient to make irrational decisions
- Palliative care measures continue to advance. Effective pain management is more readily available. Hospice services have evolved and are now offered and provided to individuals who are not necessarily in imminent danger of dying
- Faced with mounting healthcare costs, insurance companies may begin offering inexpensive life ending suicide drugs rather than providing costly life-saving treatment options. People may be forced to choose between life without needed medications, and suicide.
- Should this measure be passed, as one Assembly member was quoted as saying, “there is no turning back”. What stops this legislation from being extended to others who require expensive healthcare assistance from being urged to consider suicide as an option?

Please contact the Governor and urge him to veto this legislation.