

Doctor-Assisted Suicide

Fatally Flawed and Dangerous to
New Mexico Patients

New Mexico Bill Seeking to Legalize ASSISTED SUICIDE

HB 90

The
Proposed Radical
New Mexico Assisted
Suicide Bill (HB 90) has
sweeping provisions which go well
beyond the supposed "safeguards"
in laws and proposals to legalize
assisted suicide in other states.

Would give a patient who may die in the loosely-
defined "foreseeable future" the ability to obtain
lethal drugs to commit suicide from medical
professionals who are not even physicians.

Important Reasons to Oppose HB 90...

- A **non-physician**, who may or may not even know the patient, could diagnose and prescribe lethal drugs to bring about the patient's death. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants are not as experienced as doctors in diagnosing or treating serious diseases and could easily make a mistake.
- Under HB 90, the medical professional can diagnose and prescribe lethal drugs using telemedicine from a remote location and does not have to ever see the patient.
- "Terminal illness" is so broadly defined as occurring within a "reasonably foreseeable period of time" that it includes many conditions that are treatable but not terminal, such as frailty or a spinal cord injury or progressive disabilities.
- Patients who are severely depressed, have mental illness or are intellectually impaired are not required to have counseling. They can be referred to mental health professionals who can use telemedicine, rather than a personal visit, to determine that the patient has "capacity" to make the request for lethal drugs.
- No trained medical personnel are required to be present at the time the lethal drugs are taken or at the time of death, creating the opportunity for an heir or abusive caregiver to administer the lethal drugs without the patient's knowledge or consent.
- Inadequate pain control is NOT the primary reason why patients in Oregon and Washington request lethal drugs.
- In Oregon and California – states which allow assisted suicide – patients have been denied payment for treatments to save their lives, but have been told that less-costly lethal drugs would be covered. Assisted suicide creates a strong economic incentive to deny treatment.
- Suicide in the general population in Oregon is 40% above the national average during the 20 year period that Oregon has had legal assisted suicide.

***To protect patients from the dangers of assisted suicide,
URGE YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:***

New Mexico
Coalition Against
Assisted Suicide

Vote NO on HB 90