

ACTION ALERT!

Stop AB 282 - It Removes Suicide Safeguards

March 2018

Sacramento - State Assembly bill **AB 282**, *Aiding, advising, or encouraging suicide, exemption from prosecution* (Jones-Sawyer – D. Los Angeles) would remove protection of vulnerable patients from being coerced into physician assisted suicide (PAS). AB 282 confirms the repeated history of PAS safeguard destruction, which was predicted for the California End of Life Option Act signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. **Your action is needed now to stop AB 282.**

AB 282 states, “*This bill would prohibit a person whose actions are compliant with the End of Life Option Act from being prosecuted for deliberately aiding, advising, or encouraging suicide.*” AB 282 strips away a major safeguard. A vulnerable individual, who may be suffering from untreated depression, could be legally talked into physician assisted suicide by perhaps an impatient inheritance seeker or beneficiary care-taker.

The remaining safeguard against coercion within the End of Life Option Act is the attending doctor himself. If he considers the patient to be under coercion, the doctor is not to write the PAS prescription. However, if family members don't like that doctor's decision, they can seek a different doctor. Possibly, the original attending physician could dismiss coercive indicators and write the prescription. Either way, PAS proceeds and the patient dies an untimely death.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Contact and urge your state Senator to OPPOSE AB 282. This is not simply a bill to bring existing code into conformance with the End of Life Option Act. It removes a major safeguard against encouraging suicide and further propels California toward euthanasia.

The bill was rushed through the Assembly early this January and was passed by essentially party-line vote, Democrats -Yes, Republicans – No. It is now in the Senate Committee on Public Safety. **Organizations:** Fax letter of Opposition to this committee at 916-445-4688 for entry into bill analysis. E-mail not accepted.

Make calls now to your state Senator's district and Sacramento offices and leave a message of opposition to AB 282. Find your Senator and contact information at <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>