

The manufacture of a "right to die," ostensibly a gift to those not dying fast enough, is, in fact, the state's abdication of its duty to protect innocent life and its abandonment especially of the old, the weak, and the poor.

– Dr. Leon Kass, Former Chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics

Dear Faith Leaders,

We strongly encourage you and your congregants to vote NO on proposition 106. Doctor-assisted suicide threatens the most vulnerable in our communities and breaks the bonds between doctors and patients and between family members. Rather than caring for the most vulnerable, doctor-assisted suicide creates a burden upon them to end their life and will reduce our society's compassion for the disabled, elderly, poor, and infirm.

Here are the reasons why proposition 106 should be rejected:

- ✓ Insurance companies and governments remove the right to live from poor patients.
 - In Oregon, where doctor-assisted suicide is legal, patients on Medicaid received letters claiming that coverage for expensive life-saving drugs would be denied while doctor-assisted suicide would be covered.
- ✓ There is no independent oversight of the program proposed for Colorado.
 - The only reporting mechanism is for the doctors involved in the process of assisted-suicide to report themselves. Department of Public Health will then only sample a few of those for review.
- ✓ Forces coroners to lie on death certificates.
 - Coroners cannot list suicide as the cause of death. Furthermore, they cannot perform an autopsy even if suspicious circumstances warrant the practice. Life insurance policies must be paid despite the act of suicide.
- ✓ Pain is not a requirement for doctor-assisted suicide.
 - In Oregon, loss of autonomy is listed as the primary reason for suicide. Inadequate pain control is listed by less than 1 in 4.
- ✓ No medical professional required to be present at the time of suicide.
 - It is not necessary for any medical professional to help administer the drugs or be present during the procedure.
- ✓ Cannot track deadly medicine prescribed.
 - Oregon health officials cannot track 43% of all the medicine that was prescribed for suicide.
- ✓ Misdiagnosis is common.
 - The initiative requires a person must be terminally ill, with six months or less to live, but Harvard has found that nearly 20% of all patients with terminal diagnoses outlive their initial timeline.

If you are interested in learning more, reading in-depth policy briefs, getting church bulletin inserts, watching videos and more, visit: centennial.ccu.edu/prop106.

Thank you for standing for the sanctity of life,



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