

SENATE JOURNAL
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My name is Lyle Onstad, and I am a Family practice physician in Great Falls, Montana. I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose the idea of sanctioned Physician Assisted suicide in the state of Montana. It is my belief that physician assisted suicide is ultimately a betrayal of the doctor-patient relationship and a violation of the Hippocratic medical oath to "first do not harm."

I believe strongly in aggressive pain control measures for the terminally ill and believe that there are good resources available to assist patients in need in most locations in the state through Hospice and other end of life care organizations. I believe strongly in the patients right to refuse care, even care that could prolong a patient's life, but do not feel that there is any legitimate role for the active termination or assistance in death of a patient by a medical provider. It is ethically wrong and will open a Pandora's Box that medical providers should not have to deal with.

I would strongly encourage the legislature to vote against any proposal to legalize physician assisted suicide in the State of Montana. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lyle J. Onstad MD