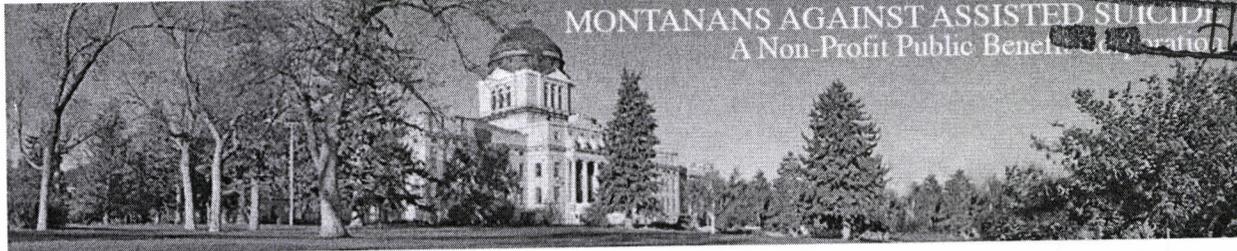


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HB 505

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MONTANANS AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE
A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation

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- 112 Montana Doctors Support HB 505
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IT'S GREAT TO BE ALIVE!
SUPPORT HB 505.



Jeanette Hall, 12 years after her doctor talked her out of physician assisted suicide in Oregon - Click photo to read her story and hear her radio ad with Dr. Paul Gorsuch supporting HB 505.

TELL YOUR SENATOR TO SUPPORT HB 505! CALL 406 444 4800.

- "Vote for HB 505 to stop a bad situation from getting worse"
- "Because of my mother's experiences, I no longer believe in "physician-assisted suicide." Support House Bill 505."
- "We urge you to vote in favor of HB 505,"
- "I hope that you will vote 'Yes' on HB 505"
- "I support House Bill 505, which clearly states that assisted suicide is not legal."

LAW ENFORCEMENT VIEWPOINT AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013

Not Dead Yet Supports HB 505

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Member:

Not Dead Yet is a national disability rights group with members in Montana. On behalf of our members, I write to say that we urge you to pass HB 505, which is a short and simple bill to prevent legalization of assisted suicide and end the dispute over whether it is legal in Montana.

In the last two years, three other states have strengthened their laws against assisted suicide (Idaho, Georgia and Louisiana). Not Dead Yet of Georgia was involved in the Georgia efforts. We met with a woman, Sue Celmer, whose ex-husband had been assisted to commit suicide by Final Exit Network. He had previously battled cancer, but was cancer free when these suicide predators assisted him. Her story helped convey the urgency of legislation banning assisted suicide. We hope that Montana will join Georgia and the other two states to protect older people, our families and ourselves.

Leading proponents of bills to legalize assisted suicide for the terminally ill often claim that the views of disability organizations aren't relevant. While it's true that people with disabilities aren't usually terminally ill, the terminally ill are almost always disabled. This is one of many reasons that our perspective may shed some light on this complex issue.

People with disabilities and chronic conditions live on the front lines of the health care system that serves (and too often underserves) dying people. One might view us as the proverbial "canaries in the coal mine" who are alerting others to dangers we see first.

Assisted suicide supporters paint themselves as "compassionate progressives" fighting for freedom against the "religious right." It's a simple message, and it goes down well, if you ignore inconvenient truths, such as:

- Predictions that someone will die in six months are often wrong;
- People who want to die usually have treatable depression and/or need better palliative care;
- Pressures to cut health care costs in the current fiscal

WELCOME!

Tell your legislators to vote "Yes" on HB 505! Call 406 444 4800.

Read the Press Release by 112 Montana Physicians Supporting HB 505!

SENATOR SHOCKLEY SPEAKS AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE; WARNS OF ABUSE BY HEIRS



Click on photo to see video

ABOUT PHYSICIAN- ASSISTED SUICIDE

Legal physician-assisted suicide encourages people with many quality years left to throw away their lives.

Legalization is a recipe for elder abuse.

In Oregon, legalization has empowered the Oregon Health Plan to steer citizens to suicide.

In Oregon, other suicides have increased with legalization.

In Washington, the only other state with



Philip Tummarello, retired Sergeant Inspector - click on photo to see video

VOICES FROM OREGON AND WASHINGTON WHERE ASSISTED SUICIDE IS LEGAL

- "I was afraid to leave my husband alone"
- "If Dr. Stevens had believed in assisted suicide, I would be dead"
- "In Oregon, the only help my patient received was a lethal prescription, intended to kill him."
- "It wasn't the father saying that he wanted to die"
- "He made the mistake of asking about assisted suicide"

BRADLEY WILLIAMS SPEAKS AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE



Click on photo to watch Bradley Williams speak against assisted suicide

MORE INFORMATION

- Why do so many disability groups oppose assisted suicide?
- Laws Against Assisted Suicide are Constitutional
- Montana Constitution Has No "Right to Die"
- Legal analysis of failed bill to legalize assisted suicide, SB 220

GET YOUR BUMPER STICKERS HERE!



Click the photo to order! \$1 each.

climate make this the wrong time to add doctor prescribed suicide to the options;

- Abuse of elders and people with disabilities is a growing but often undetected problem, making coercion virtually impossible to identify or prevent.
- It's not the proponents' good intentions but the language and implementation of assisted suicide laws that legislators need to consider.

As one of countless disabled people who's survived a terminal prediction, I can't help but become concerned when the accuracy of a terminal prognosis determines whether someone gets suicide assistance rather than suicide prevention.

The Oregon Reports themselves show that non terminal people are getting lethal prescriptions - up to 1009 days have passed between the request for a lethal prescription and death. One of the many things the Reports hide is specifically how many lived longer than six months, but we do know that there's no consequence to the assisting doctors for this or any other mistake in the assisted suicide process.

Proponents also claim that 15 years of data from Oregon show that safeguards to ensure that it's voluntary are working. How would they know? The Oregon Reports only tell us what the prescribing doctors indicated were the patients' reasons for wanting assisted suicide by checking off one or more of seven reasons on a multiple choice state government form.

One of the reasons is feelings of being a burden on others, checked in 39% of the cases. But there's no corresponding requirement that home care options be disclosed as part of informed consent under the law, much less that they be offered or funded.

Although the Oregon Reports admit that the state can't assess compliance with the safeguards, some independent articles find that safeguards failed in individual cases (see, e.g., Hendin & Foley, MDs, "Physician-Assisted Suicide in Oregon: A Medical Perspective", Michigan Law Review, June 2008, <http://www.michiganlawreview.org/assets/pdfs/106/8/hendinfoley.pdf>). But the law includes no authority for investigation or enforcement, so nothing happens as a result.

It has been estimated that there are 21,265 reported and unreported cases of elder abuse annually in Montana (Elder Abuse Data and Statistics, Elder Abuse Daily, February 15, 2010 <http://web.archive.org/web/20101021101332/http://www.eadaily.com/15/elder-abuse-statistics/>).

Statistically, 90% of elder abusers are a family member or trusted other. Similarly, people with disabilities are up to four times more likely to be abused than their same-age nondisabled peers. In Oregon and Washington, legal assisted suicide has opened new paths of abuse against persons who may qualify to use these laws. One of the most obvious problems is a complete lack of oversight when the lethal drug is administered. If an abuser were to administer the drug without the person's consent, who would know?

It is simply naive to suggest that assisted suicide can be added to the array of medical treatment options, without taking into account the harsh realities of elder abuse and the related potential for coercion.

legal assisted suicide, there have been proposals to expand that law to direct euthanasia of non-terminal people.

For more information, go to Quick Facts About Assisted Suicide.

A RECIPE FOR ELDER ABUSE



Julie's Sign: No assisted suicide. No assisted elder abuse. Preserve choice for seniors.

PRINT OUR HANDOUTS!

- "Aid in Dying" Whose Choice?
- Talking Points
- US Overview (Idaho article)
- Terminal Uncertainty
- Laws Against Assisted Suicide are Constitutional
- What People Mean When They Say They Want to Die

CHOICE IS AN ILLUSION



Click on the banner to see website

LABELS

- aid in dying (48)
- American Medical Association (5)
- assisted suicide (85)
- Barbara Coombs Lee (3)
- Barbara Wagner (6)
- Baxter (25)
- Blewett (15)
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- Cory Swanson (1)

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Daily Interlake Urges Passage of HB 505

Legal Assisted Suicide Puts the Government in Your...

A Response to Representative Moore

Daily Interlake Urges Passage of HB 505

"Vote for HB 505 to stop a bad situation from get...

Radio Ad Featuring Jeanette Hall and Paul Gorsuch,...

112 Montana Physicians Who Support HB 505!

Washington Doctor Alerts Senators to "Expansion" I...

"This ad is appalling, even by the low standards o...

"Legalizing assisted suicide results in causing no...

Not Dead Yet Supports HB 505

Why HB 505 is Needed Now

Why Do So Many Disability Groups Oppose Physician ...

"I support House Bill 505, which clearly states t...

Contact Us

Oregon's New Report Consistent with Elder Abuse

Pass HB 505 - Rick Blevins, MD

Don't make Washington's assisted-suicide mistake

Possible expansion of physician-assisted suicide I...

"He made the mistake of asking for

We urge you to vote in favor of HB 505.

Sincerely,

Diane Coleman, JD, MBA
 President/CEO
 Not Dead Yet
 497 State Street
 Rochester, NY 14608
 708-420-0539 C
 www.notdeadyet.org

Posted by Admin at 7:19 PM 

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