EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2/16/15
HB 328

Assisted suicide: Disability groups are opposed

August 04, 2014 7:00 am

While two disabled people have shared personal opinions in favor of legalizing assisted suicide (oped July 25), readers need to know that all of the major national disability organizations that have taken a position on the issue oppose legalizing assisted suicide.

This includes the National Council on Disability, the National Council on Independent Living, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, the Autistic Self Advocacy Network and several others (see notdeadyet.org/disability-groups-opposed-to-assisted-suicide-laws). These organizations view public policy with a deep historical knowledge of how old, ill and disabled people are devalued by society and, too often, even by our own families. They also have practical experience with our health care and service systems.

The so-called "safeguards" in assisted suicide laws are hollow. For instance, one of the two required witnesses* to the form requesting assisted suicide can be an heir who might stand to gain by the person's death. And worse, neither witness to the person's signature is required to actually know the person. There is no way to discover, much less prevent, any form of coercion or caregiver abuse in getting people to sign assisted suicide requests. And since no independent witness is required at the time of death, self-administration of the** lethal dose is not assured, even though it is required by law. In Oregon, the law includes no investigation or enforcement provisions. Safeguards? I don't think so.

A major reason people request assisted suicide is the feeling they are a burden to others. I see that as a subtle form of coercion, often resulting from the lack of necessary home care services, or proper pain management and palliative care.

Why are people advocating our "death with dignity" before working first to assure that we have life with dignity?

Marsha Katz, Missoula

I am retired from the University of Montana Rural Institute after 15 years.
Served as a board member and Acting Chair of the federal Social Security Advisory Board (2006-2012) and I am currently serving on a 6 month SSAB panel doing a report on Disability.
Member of the National Council for Independent Living, American Association of People with Disabilities, ADAPT, Not Dead Yet, Summit Independent Living Center in Missoula, and Missoula People First.
I am 68, have invisible disabilities, and am married to a native Montanan who has lived with a visible disability and used a wheelchair since the age of 16.
In 2012 and 2013 I assisted my brother through hospice and a natural death in his own bed at home looking out into the woods he loved. He died with more grace and dignity than I imagined possible after a 5 year battle with cancer that included four rounds of chemo and one surgery.
Marsha

*See SB 202 Page 3 Lines 22-25, ** Page 2 Line 25 **Vote NO on SB 202 and YES on HB 328**

There are 3 entities that reap windfall profits when someone's life is cut short; the government, the insurance industry and the corporate proponents of SB 202.

SB 202 has the same loopholes as their previous bills that were rejected in 2011 (SB 167) and 2013 (SB 220). All three proposed bills are proof in the public record that the proponents key marketing points are fraudulent advertising. Understand that they were the largest lobbying spender during the last legislative session, 2013. In 2008 they invested over $5,000,000 in sound bites to pass an initiative in Washington State. They have established monopolies and profit centers in Oregon and Washington managing most of the lethal events collecting fees/commissions/memorials from the heirs.

Their proposed bills negate their leading marketing sound bites: choice, must self-administrate and safe guards including 2 doctors required. It is a classic bait and switch where they are counting on the public not reading their bills. Thankfully our Montana legislators do read the bills.

*Someone who claims to know how the person communicates may speak for them. Whose choice might that be? An heir may be involved in the sign up process. In fact once the lethal prescription is written an heir can pick up the prescription, bring it into the residence and since no witness is required the heir may covertly administer the lethal dose in their apple sauce. No one would know if the person struggled. And everyone involved has immunity. Most Montanan's are not for that. Is there anyone in this room that is for non-voluntary euthanasia for the sake of convenience and an inheritance? I did not think so. Then no one in this room should support SB 202. **They even redefine self administer as "ingested" so there is no recourse for survivors to question. They also use the phase, "**may** self-administrate" several times in the bill. ***They often have said in their events that they always get a second opinion, yet their bill provides that the 1st doctor may waive the second doctor.

This is enough proof in the public record to pursue a truth in advertising restraining order for them to stop their false advertising campaign in Montana.

There are other loopholes among the double speak such as ****family notification is not required and their definition of terminally ill (which will be the trigger for the health systems' course of action) is broad enough to include a young person being successfully treated for diabetes or HIV. A facility that is known to be the go-to-place for euthanasia may not be down- graded.*****

Marilyn Golden, senior policy analyst with Disabilities Rights Education & Defense Fund, said "If these bills pass, some people's lives will be ended without their consent, through mistakes and abuse. No safeguards have ever been enacted or proposed that can prevent this outcome, which can never be undone". See attached media advisory.

Montana disability rights advocates describe their bills as blunt instruments. **A license to sift through our elders with disabilities for the sake of corporate profits is not for sale in Montana.**
Vote NO on SB 202. **Vote YES on HB 328 to close the door on euthanasia in Montana.**

Bradley Williams, Pres. Bradley@MtAAS.org 406 531 0937

*SB 202 page 1 line 22, **pg 2 line 25, ***pg 6 line 7, ****pg 6 line 23, *****pg 11 line 9

Media Advisory: Disability Advocates Prepared To Oppose Flurry of State Assisted Suicide Bills Being Introduced in 2015

Posted: 15 Jan 2015 03:37 AM PST Summary: Disability rights advocates are preparing to work in broad coalition with medical and other groups that oppose legalization of assisted suicide, as proponents announce plans to introduce bills in several states in the wake of Brittany Maynard's tragic death. Representatives of Not Dead Yet, the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund and Second Thoughts are available for interviews.

Brittany Maynard's personal story has ignited the debate around assisted suicide legalization. Most recently, Maynard's husband appeared in an interview alongside the president of Compassion & Choices, formerly the Hemlock Society, to push legalization. Disability advocates are deeply sympathetic to all people with a terminal illness, facing the difficulties that lie ahead. Legalization of assisted suicide can look acceptable and safe when the focus is solely on one individual. However, a closer examination of the issue reveals the immense harm legalization poses to vulnerable people, the elderly and society as a whole.

"If these bills pass, some people's lives will be ended without their consent, through mistakes and abuse," said Marilyn Golden, senior policy analyst with the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund. *"No safeguards have ever been enacted or proposed that can prevent this outcome, which can never be undone."* Assisted suicide legislation was defeated last year in New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts by a broad coalition of disability rights organizations, medical associations and professionals, palliative care specialists, hospice workers and right to life groups. Similar coalitions are forming in many states in 2015 to oppose assisted suicide bills. The following individuals are disability rights advocates who are experts and active on the issue of assisted suicide and able to speak on the record.

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For more information, see **"Who's Really Hurt by Assisted Suicide?"** *CNN, November 4, 2014.*

Vote NO on SB 202 and YES on HB328 to close the door on euthanasia in Montana.