

Judiciary Committee

Montana State House of Representatives

HB 328 Please vote YES

Suicide is legal but tragic. Assisting someone to end another life has always been illegal and in conflict with our culture. Our country was founded on the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We hold a high position on the sanctity of human life. We have established suicide prevention hot lines. We have laws that allow officials to temporarily restrain a suicidal person, so that he may be evaluated by trained professionals. We have a very rigorous appeal process before capital punishment is carried out.

Throughout history, there have been countries that have moved away from respecting all human life. Those countries that began ending life, later have been judged harshly by history. Germany, under the direction of the Nazi philosophy, decided that all life is not equal. They set out to establish a superior German race and to eliminate life not worthy of life. They established Public Medical Health Centers where physicians performed coercive sterilizations, euthanized infants and children with disabilities, and euthanized the mentally ill and prisoners. They later moved to mass killing of people groups based on race. In our present time, the culture of ISIS exists; a culture where it is acceptable to behead journalists, burn prisoners in a metal cage, and rape and force teenage girls to marry against their will. These acts are acceptable to their culture, because they do not value all human life.

You, the House of Representatives, are being asked to change the value of life for our state. In the 1970s the Netherlands passed a similar law to make physician-assisted suicide legal. The law did not remain static but moved quickly away from assisting suicide to active euthanasia. By 2013, injection of IV medication by a physician was the cause of 10% of all deaths in the Netherlands. Of those deaths were 650 infants and children, who were euthanized at the request of their parents. If life can be deliberately taken, the culture of that country will be changed forever.

A physician should not have the power "to end life" ,even if asked by the patient. I urge you to remain strong to our country's principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness by voting Yes on HB 328.

Most sincerely,

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