

Re: HB99 - Euthanasia

Dear Hospital Foundation Members and Legislators,

This dissent regarding HB99 was crafted with due respect for my Fairbanks Hospital Foundation colleague, Rich Seifert, who e-mailed all Foundation members and the State House March 12 with his general support and suggestions concerning HB99, a saccharine bill which would legalize euthanasia in Alaska. I know Juneau well enough to predict HB99 will go nowhere fast. Sadly, that does not mean euthanasia advocates will back off. They will hound the Legislature, use the Courts, or go the initiative route.

Although I choose to remain hopeful, it is my opinion that America in 2015 is in grave moral crisis. The sanctity of faith, traditional marriage and family, pillars of all civil and just societies and governments, is under relentless assault. The killing of our unborn young persists as a legal option, a privacy matter. Alaska just legalized marijuana despite irrefutable evidence of its multifaceted negative impacts on society – especially our young. Now sweetly comes so-called mercy killing to tempt our Legislature. The culture of death is bold and persistent.

And all it takes for Evil to prevail is for good folks to do nothing. Here is my personal, individual take in the matter of HB99 and Fairbanks Memorial Hospital:

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital (FMH) is celebrated and respected for its relentless focus on preserving and promoting life and health in our community. I for one, do not wish to sit down and reason together about how we might depart that sacred ground to improve and embrace HB99. When pre-born children are to be killed in our town – we decline that evil chore. Life is sacred here at FMH! If our older, sicker, and less efficient family members are ever to be killed in our town – let that evil chore also fall to others. Life is sacred here at FMH! The most vulnerable trust us with their very lives. Let us not confuse our mission – no mixing of healing and killing. Every day in the FMH medical family we provide excellent pain management combined with loving and compassionate End-of-Life Care. Kill our patients? – No, not on my watch, please God. Thank you all for listening.

Respectfully, Mike Kelly

cc: Alaska House members – please consider this as written testimony opposing HB99 in the committees of referral of both bodies