

From: Pam Albrecht [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 8:37 PM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; representative.Dave.Talerico@akleg.gov; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Neal Foster

Subject: HB99 Physician-Assisted Suicide

Dear Representative:

April 8, 2015

As I am unable to be at the hearing on HB99 tomorrow in Anchorage I'm attaching a letter received from Ms. Margaret Dore, Esq., Choice is an Illusion, of Seattle. She has carefully compared the Physician-Assisted laws in Oregon, Washington and Alaska and lists in her letter difficulties that have arisen in Oregon and Washington with similar laws. Please read this carefully. Perhaps a staff person can print the links that support her concerns. These issues were not considered or known when the bills passed in Oregon or Washington.

A common problem, other than pain, for those seriously ill is depression. Can we not treat the depression with anti-depressants rather than killing the patient. Hospice care, good medication and personal concern for the person are the kindest, most humane way for us to treat the suffering of the very ill.

This cannot be a good example for young people—what are we thinking. We are very concerned about their suicide rate and how to lower it. Is this bill going to be helpful for that purpose?

You may remember in the recent past there was a slogan "We don't give a damn how they do it Outside". That was jettisoned at some time; now we look to Washington, Oregon, Colorado as our shining stars. Maybe we need to set the higher example.

I am appalled that killing would be our first response to those needing our compassionate care and ask that you vote 'No' on this unfortunate bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Pamela Albrecht

Anchorage, AK Constituent

To: <alertagainst1000@googlegroups.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 5:14 PM
Subject: [alert] Dore post against Alaska bill (HB 99)

I am a lawyer in Washington State where assisted suicide is legal. Our law is similar to a law in Oregon. The proposed bill to legalize assisted suicide in Alaska is similar to both laws.

Problems with legalization include the following:

1. The proposed bill legalizes assisted suicide for persons with a "terminal disease," which is defined as having less than six months to live. In Oregon, which uses the same definition, young adults with chronic conditions such as diabetes are "eligible" for assisted suicide. Such persons can have years, even decades, to live. Consider also, Jeanette Hall, who was adamant that she would do assisted suicide, but was convinced to be treated instead. Today, nearly 15 years later, she is "thrilled to be alive." See http://www.montanansagainstaassistedsuicide.org/2013/04/if-kress-had-been-my-doctor-in-2000-i_27.html
2. In Oregon, that state's Medicaid Plan steers people to suicide through coverage incentives. For more information, see the affidavit of Kenneth Stevens, MD, at this link: https://maasdocuments.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/dr-stevens-affidavit_001.pdf
3. Legalization is a recipe for elder abuse. Your bill, like Washington's law, allows one of two witnesses on the lethal dose request to be an heir who will benefit from the patient's death. Once the lethal dose is issued by the pharmacy, there is no oversight. Even if the patient struggled, who would know?
4. In Oregon, other conventional "violent" suicides have increased significantly with the legalization of physician-assisted suicide. In Oregon, conventional suicides are a \$41 million problem due to hospitalization costs, etc. See <http://www.choiceillusion.org/2014/03/the-high-financial-cost-of-regular.html> Legalization, regardless, sends the wrong message to young people that suicide is an acceptable solution to life's problems. Alaska already has highest suicide rate in the nation. See http://dhss.alaska.gov/SuicidePrevention/Documents/pdfs_sspc/AKSuicideStatistics.pdf

For a short article about Washington's similar law, please go here (non-lawyers tell me they like it): <https://www.kcba.org/newsevents/barbulletin/BView.aspx?Month=05&Year=2009&AID=article5.htm>

Don't make Washington's mistake. Tell your legislators to say "NO" to assisted suicide.

Margaret Dore, Esq., MBA
Law Offices of Margaret K. Dore, P.S.
Choice is an Illusion, a nonprofit corporation www.choiceillusion.org
1001 4th Avenue, 44th Floor
Seattle, WA 98154
206-389-1754