

Jasmin Martin

From: Marianne Johnstone-Petty [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2022 10:41 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Mia Costello; [REDACTED]
Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Support HB 392 WITHOUT the House Floor Amendment

Dear Senators & aids--

Please support HB 392 WITHOUT the House Floor Amendment. HB 392 will increase access, decrease burden, and improve the care of Alaskans living with serious illness; whereas, the addition of the House Floor Amendment decreases access, increases the burden, and **deprives people of their right to choose how they die as clearly delineated in our well-written Health Care Decisions Act (13.52).**

There are 3 reasons for concerns with requiring written consent:

1. Acutely and seriously ill patients within a facility can often decline rapidly leading to the need to make decisions within seconds. **This amendment would lead to these patients losing their right to choose how they die if unable to get their surrogate to bedside to sign.**
2. Surrogates (when the patient does not have decision making capacity), especially in Alaska, are not always available to sign a written document (e.g. out of state, out of area, unable to arrive to facility in a timely fashion). **This bill would mean that we are depriving these patients their right to die as they have discussed with their surrogate.**
3. Requiring grieving families to sign their loved ones DNR could lead to them believing they killed the person they loved versus the reality that the disease is leading to their end-of-life. **This leads to bureaucracy causing increased grief, remorse, and trauma for families.**

Thank you for your work and for considering.
Marianne Johnstone-Petty, DNP, ACHPN
Associate Medical Director, Palliative Care Department
907.632.3974

"Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise."
Victor Hugo

Jasmin Martin

From: Ellen Lentz FNP [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2022 10:40 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: 392

Good morning.

As a nurse practitioner practicing in Alaska for 22 years this bill is important to me. I agree with the proposals that will improve patient care. The 5 th amendment will interfere with patients autonomy and decision making. Please consider this when addressing the bill.

Thank you.

Ellen Lentz, ANP

Jasmin Martin

From: Ellen Lentz FNP [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2022 9:28 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: 392

Please side on humanity. Nurse practitioners should be able to sign death certificates and order hospice. Sometimes our patients are so ill they cannot sign themselves so amendment five will not be serving your constituents.

Sent from my iPhone

Jasmin Martin

From: McVeigh, Ursula [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2022 9:05 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Support for HB 392 WITHOUT the house amendment

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am the Exec Medical Director of Hospice and Palliative Care with Providence Alaska Medical Group and have been the lead for the DHSS POLST Education Workgroup. I have 20+ years' experience as a physician--8 years as an internist (Primary Care and Hospitalist) and 15 years in the field of Hospice and Palliative Care. I have direct clinical experience in having cared for over a 2000 seriously ill and end of life patients and have been a leader and educator to countless medical professionals on the provisions of quality end of life care.

My professional background and work with and within Alaska have me well qualified to recommend the House Bill 392 being passed without the house amendment.

The Alaska Health Care Decision Act of 2004 is quite comprehensive and has stood the test of time-- our state laws on advance directives, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, and end of life care are both supportive of patient self-determination and protective for vulnerable populations. This act has stood the test of time and the only update needed in 18+ years is this house bill- to allow Advance Practice Providers (Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants) to sign DNR orders.

It is well within the scope of practice, and in fact a standard of care, to have advance practice providers to discuss preferences for care at end of life including DNR orders.

To pass the bill but to include proposed House Amendment that would require signed informed consent for a DNR order is a serious mistake. There's no medical evidence or standards of practice to would endorse such a requirement. The regulation that enacts the statewide DNR identification program, now called AK POLST, requires verbal informed consent, with signature recommended but not required. Similarly, hospital code status orders are governed by federal law, Patient Self Determination Act, that also require patient/surrogate participation and consent for medical care plans, and it is only in rare instance when a medical professional will write a DNR order on basis of being medically ineffective health care, as outlined in AS 13.52.030.

I'm very hopeful that HB 392 can pass without this signature-requiring house amendment. As is, it's a simple but impactful update to quite a good health care statute.

Thank you for your service to our state and for reading, Ursula
Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Ursula McVeigh MD
Exec Medical Director, Hospice and Palliative Care
Providence Medical Group Alaska
802-735-6297

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