MEMORANDUM

TO: California State Assemblymembers

FROM: Margaret Dore, Esq., MBA, Choice is an Illusion

RE: Vote “No” on AB 15. (No Assisted Suicide)

DATE: August 18, 2015

_______________________________________________________________

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AB 15, the “End of Life Option Act,” is a deceptively written bill that seeks to legalize physician-assisted suicide.

AB 15 is sold as giving patients choice and control at the end of life. The bill is instead a recipe for elder abuse and is not limited to dying persons. Indeed, “eligible” persons may have years, even decades, to live.

In Oregon, which has a similar law, that state’s Medicaid program uses coverage incentives to steer patients to suicide. If AB 15 is enacted, California’s Medicaid program, as well as private insurers, will be able to engage in this same conduct. Do you want this to happen to you or your family?

The bill has a myriad of other problems. Please vote “No” on AB 15.
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1. If California follows Oregon’s interpretation of “terminal disease,” assisted suicide and euthanasia will be legalized for people with chronic conditions such as diabetes.

2. Misdiagnosis occurs; predictions of life expectancy can be wrong.

3. Treatment can lead to recovery.

F. If AB 15 Is Enacted, There Will Likely be Pressure to Expand.

G. AB 15 Legalizes Euthanasia.

H. Euthanasia is Not Prohibited.

I. The Provision Making “Undue Influence” a Felony Is Too Vague to be Enforced.

V. PUBLIC POLICY, SAFETY AND WELFARE

A. Assisted Suicide Can Be Traumatic for Family Members as Well as Patients.

1. The Swiss Study.

2. My cases involving the Oregon and Washington assisted suicide laws.

B. Enacting AB 15 Will Allow California Health Care Providers to Steer Patients to Suicide; AB 15, § 443.13 Does Not Prevent Steerage to Suicide.

C. In Oregon, Other (Conventional) Suicides Have Increased with Legalization of Physician-Assisted Suicide; the Financial Cost is “Enormous.”

VI. CONCLUSION

APPENDIX