

MEMORANDUM

TO: California State Assemblymembers

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

RE: Vote "No" on ABX2-15 . (No Assisted Suicide)

DATE: Updated: September 7, 2015

Same version as
expected on 9/11/15

KEY POINTS

1. ABX2-15 applies to people with a "terminal disease," which is defined as having a medical prognosis of less than six months to live. (Memo, p.9). Such persons can, in fact, have years, even decades, to live. The more obvious reasons being misdiagnosis and the fact that predicting life expectancy is not an exact science. (Id., pp. 11-12). Doctors can sometimes be widely wrong. (Id.).
2. In Oregon, which has a nearly identical definition of "terminal disease," eligible persons include young adults with chronic conditions such as insulin dependent diabetes. (Memo, p. 10-11). Such persons, with appropriate medical care, can have years, even decades, to live.
3. ABX2-15 allows the patient's heir, who will financially benefit from his/her death, to actively participate in signing the patient up for the lethal dose. (Memo, p. 7). This is an extreme conflict of interest.
4. Once the lethal dose is issued by the pharmacy, there is no oversight. Not even a witness is required when the lethal dose is administered. If the patient struggled, who would know? (Memo, pp. 8-9).
5. Assisted suicide can be traumatic for family members as well as patients. (Memo., pp. 12-13)
6. If California follows Washington State, the death certificate is required to be falsified to reflect a natural death. (Memo, pp. 17-19). The significance is a lack of transparency and an inability to prosecute for murder even in a case of outright murder for the money. Id.

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