TO: The Nevada Legislature and the Governor

FROM: Margaret Dore, Esq., MBA, President
Choice is an Illusion, a nonprofit corporation¹

RE: Reject SB 261 (Assisted Suicide, Euthanasia)

• Prevent People With Years to Live From Throwing Away Their Lives
• Don’t Be Fooled by Unenforceable Patient Protections
• Stop Legal Elder Abuse
• Stop Legal Murder
• Don’t Put Older People in the Crosshairs of Their Heirs and Other Predators
• Prevent Suicide Contagion
• Stop Family Trauma

DATE: June 1, 2017

INDEX

I. INTRODUCTION ........................................... 1

II. DEFINITIONS .............................................. 1

   A. Physician-Assisted Suicide;
      Assisted Suicide; and Euthanasia ..................... 1

   B. Withholding or Withdrawing Treatment ............... 2

III. THE STATES PUSH BACK AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE ....... 2

   A. This Year, the South Dakota Legislature
      Passed a Nearly Unanimous Resolution Opposing
      Assisted Suicide ........................................ 2

   B. Last Year, the New Mexico Supreme Court
      Overturned Assisted Suicide in New Mexico .......... 3

   C. Five Other States Have Strengthened Their
      Laws Against Assisted Suicide ........................ 3

IV. THE OREGON AND WASHINGTON LAWS ..................... 3
V. ELDER ABUSE ........................................... 3
VI. HOW THE BILL WORKS ................................. 4
VII. A COMPARISON TO PROBATE LAW ..................... 5
VIII. YEARS OR DECADES TO LIVE ........................ 5

   A. If Nevada Follows Oregon’s Interpretation of
      “Terminal Condition,” the Bill Will Apply to
      People with Chronic Conditions Such as
      Insulin Dependent Diabetes ......................... 5
   B. Predictions of Life Expectancy Can Be Wrong ...... 7
   C. Treatment Can Lead to Recovery ..................... 8

IX. INDIVIDUAL CHOICE IS NOT ASSURED. ................. 8

   A. Voluntariness and Consent Are Not Required
      When the Lethal Dose is Administered ............... 8
   B. “Self-Administer” Does Not Mean Voluntary or
      Consensual ............................................. 9
   C. “Even If a Patient Struggled, Who Would
      Know?” ................................................. 9
   D. The Bill Merely Requires That Actions Be
      Taken in “Accordance” with its Provisions;
      Compliance With Patient Protections Is Not
      Required ................................................. 10
   E. If Nevada Follows Washington State, There
      Will Be an Official Legal Cover Up;
      Compliance with Patient Protections Will Be
      Irrelevant. ............................................ 11
   F. The Death Certificate Will List a Terminal
      Condition as the Cause of Death, Which Will
      Prevent Prosecution for Murder .................... 13