

For the third time in three years, Assisted Suicide fails to get support in the Assembly *Sacramento Bee Reports, "Assembly Shelves Assisted Suicide Legislation"*

(Sacramento, CA) – California State Assembly bill 374 (Berg/Levine), the bill to sanction assisted suicide in California, will be pulled once again from the Assembly Floor due to lack of support.

The bill, modeled after Oregon's Doctor-Assisted Suicide law received widespread opposition in California from Democratic and Republican lawmakers, a long list of state and national disability rights organization, California Medical Association, the California League of United Latin American Citizens, the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association, Oncologists Association of Northern and Southern California, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Association and many others.

Quotes from opponents regarding today's reported action on AB 374:

- "I think legislators understand the devastating impact assisted suicide would have on the disability community in California. Anyone should see a huge red flag over this bill when you consider the wide collection of disability rights organization opposed to this legislation."
– Marilyn Golden, Disability Rights, Education and Defense Fund.
- "Assisted suicide would lead California further down a path of cost versus care inherent in HMO decisions. No matter what so-called 'protections' are in this bill, the most vulnerable will be open to pressures of an earlier death so they will not be a financial burden to their loved ones, or to the health care systems already overburdened with the uninsured. I think that was a real concern for many legislators. As an active Democrat, I am thankful that many members of my party serving in the Legislature have consistently opposed this issue."
– Angel Luevano, Immediate Past Chairman, California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

According to the *Sacramento Bee*, assisted suicide proponents will make AB 374 a two year bill and could bring it to the Assembly Floor again early in 2008. The California State Assembly consists of forty-eight Democratic and thirty-two Republican members.

Californians Against Assisted Suicide was established to defeat legislation that would legalize assisted suicide in California. CAAS is a coalition of health care, disability rights, and grassroots advocacy organizations united in strong opposition to the legalization of assisted suicide.

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