



California
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NEWS RELEASE

Fabian Nunez, Lloyd Levine and Patty Berg Align with HMO Lobbying Group Promoting Assisted Suicide in California
Kaiser, Sutter, and Sharp part of group promoting this dangerous attack affecting vulnerable people in California

“a quick hundred dollar lethal prescription is vastly cheaper than offering long term care.”

Assemblymembers Lloyd Levine, Patty Berg, and Speaker Fabian Nunez announced Wednesday that California Association of Physicians Groups (CAPG), an organization representing HMO's, are in support of assisted suicide legalization, AB 374. Managed care corporations represented by CAPG include the Northern and Southern Permanente Medical Groups, Sutter Medical Groups, Sharp Medical Groups and numerous others -- even including big pharmaceutical companies such as GlaxoSmithKline, Merck & Co., Pfizer, and Amgen.

In a desperate attempt to pass Assisted Suicide in California, after a crushing defeat in the progressive state of Vermont, this HMO lobbying group is going public with their support of legislation that would bring assisted suicide to the millions of uninsured and underinsured Californians, some of whom are their own members.

“This endorsement truly clarifies the complete implications of assisted suicide legalization,” said Marilyn Golden, Policy Analyst at the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund.

“We intend to increase our fight against assisted suicide and mount an aggressive protest and information blitz against every member of California Association of Physicians Groups. The public must know what this would do to the most vulnerable of our society – a quick hundred dollar lethal prescription is vastly cheaper than offering long term care.”

Disability rights organizations have long said that assisted suicide would bring a low-cost alternative to providing quality medical care for people with chronic or terminal disease or disability. Fortunately this argument was acknowledged by numerous progressive legislators and has led to the defeat of assisted suicide in 2005 and 2006.

“While we don't contribute the enormous funds to political campaigns like these HMO groups and their lobbyists, we do have the ability to make our voices heard, protest these legislators and corporations, and once again defeat assisted suicide,” added Ann Guerra, president, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers.

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