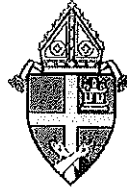


New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops



Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop

Most Reverend Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop Emeritus

Diocese of Las Cruces

Most Reverend Gerald Kicanas, Apostolic Administrator | Bishop Emeritus of Tucson

Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez, Bishop Emeritus

Diocese of Gallup

Most Reverend James S. Wall, Bishop

New Mexico Conference of Bishops

Allen Sánchez, Executive Director

Deacon Steve Rangel, Associate Director

URGENT ACTION ALERT!

Opposition to New Mexico House Bill 90

New Mexico HB 90, the Assisted Suicide Bill Hearing

Monday, 8:30 A.M., January 28, 2019

New Mexico State Capitol, Room 315

House Health and Human Services Committee

Oppose New Mexico HB 90 Seeking to Legalize Assisted Suicide

Protect patients from dangers of assisted suicide.

Please come to the hearing to offer your testimony opposing HB 90.

Albuquerque - Immediate Release --Sunday, January 27, 2019--New Mexico HB 90, the Assisted Suicide Bill, will be heard Monday, January 28 at 8:30 am at the State Capitol in room 315, House Health and Human Services Committee. Please come to the hearing to offer your testimony opposing this bill.

HB 90 seeks to legalize assisted suicide. This bill is not good for New Mexicans. It would give a patient who may die in the loosely-defined "foreseeable future" the ability to obtain lethal drugs to commit suicide from medical professionals who are not certified physicians.

To protect patients from the dangers of assisted suicide, urge your New Mexico legislators to Vote NO on HB 90—Contact Allen Sánchez 505.319.3334—END

Doctor-Assisted Suicide

Fatally Flawed and Dangerous to
New Mexico Patients

New Mexico Bills
Seeking to Legalize
ASSISTED SUICIDE

HB 90
SB 153

Would give a patient who may die in six months the ability to obtain lethal drugs to commit suicide from medical professionals who are not even physicians.

Puts New Mexico patients at great risk of coercion, abuse and denial of lifesaving treatment.

Important Reasons to Oppose HB 90 & SB 153...

- A non-physician, who may or may not even know the patient, could diagnose and prescribe lethal drugs to bring about the patient's death. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants are not as experienced as doctors in diagnosing or treating serious diseases and could easily make a mistake.
- There is no requirement that the prescribing health care provider see the patient in person, allowing a greedy heir or abusive caregiver to request lethal drugs by phone or FAX. .
- "Terminal illness" is defined as occurring within six months. A major study of physician prognoses in Chicago revealed that of 468 predictions, only 20% were accurate in predicting when death would occur. In another study, "No group accurately predicted the length of patient survival more than 50% of the time."¹
- Drug cocktails can be prescribed which cause burning throats and agony at the end.²
One in five Dutch patients using standard barbiturates to kill themselves experienced complications including vomiting, inability to finish the medication, longer than expected time to die, failure to induce coma, and awakening from coma.³
- Patients who are severely depressed, have mental illness or are intellectually impaired are not required to have counseling.
- No trained medical personnel are required to be present at the time the lethal drugs are taken or at the time of death, creating the opportunity for an heir or abusive caregiver to administer the lethal drugs without the patient's knowledge or consent.
- Inadequate pain control is NOT the primary reason why patients in Oregon and Washington request lethal drugs.
- In Oregon and California – states which allow assisted suicide – patients have been denied payment for treatments to save their lives, but have been told that less-costly lethal drugs would be covered. Assisted suicide creates a strong economic incentive to deny treatment.
- Suicide in the general population in Oregon is 40% above the national average during the 20 year period that Oregon has had legal assisted suicide.

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1070876/> • <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18445863> • <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/610800>
2. <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/01/medical-aid-in-dying-medications/590591/>
3. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJM200002243420805>

**To protect patients from the dangers of assisted suicide,
URGE YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:**

New Mexico
Coalition
Against
Assisted
Suicide

Vote NO on HB 90 & SB 153