

Physician Assisted Suicide

A resolution against the legalization of assisted suicide in Minnesota and renewing Minnesota's commitment to improving care.

WHEREAS, Minnesota is a state that has long prided itself on offering top quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, public policy should seek to improve healthcare, not hasten death; and

WHEREAS, every person has the right to receive health care, as well as manage their illnesses and refuse life-prolonging treatment; and

WHEREAS, allowing medical professionals to prescribe lethal drugs damages the patient-provider relationship; and

WHEREAS, assisted suicide targets people who most deserve our assistance and compassion by treating their lives as undignified: those with disabilities, the elderly, persons of color, and low-income individuals; and

WHEREAS, experience with assisted suicide in places where it is legal shows it to be risky, lacking in safeguards, and promoting suicide generally; and

WHEREAS, society has a longstanding policy of supporting suicide prevention, such as through the efforts of many public and private suicide prevention programs, the benefits of which could be denied under a public policy of assisted suicide; and

WHEREAS, palliative care is a proven way to relieve pain, provide comfort, and offer comprehensive and individualized treatment that encompasses all aspects of care—physical, emotional, practical, and spiritual;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party of Minnesota should oppose legalization of physician assisted suicide and should instead support healthcare solutions that prioritize real care rather than hasten death.