

David A. Nardone
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2 May 2019

Re: HB 2217

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Kim Thatcher
Vice Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee
Members: Senators Cliff Bentz, Shemia Fagan, Sara Gelser, Dennis Linthicum, James Manning, Jr.

Dear Members:

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB2217 that expands the “death with dignity” act to allow other than the oral form of self-administration to end one’s life.

The law, as implemented in 1997, gives the patient the sole responsibility and right to make and implement his or her decision to end her or his life, using an oral route of administration. Legislating other forms and methods of administration, such as intravenous line, would require a medical professional¹ assist in an invasive manner. This is morally wrong. A patient should not have this right to include/encourage/beseech/request/consult an agent for such purposes.

There is a significant difference between writing a prescription, filling a prescription, retrieving the medication, providing a glass of water, etc versus the acts of establishing and securing an intravenous line, and in some cases, devising an elaborate system for self-administration such as a computer technology activated system.

It is important to note that the use of IV administration in capital punishment cases has come under intense scrutiny nationally for its potential for error because of its resultant risk of inducing inhumane suffering. Further, what is a caregiver to do (or might feel the need to do) if the act went awry? This is not a moral choice someone should be faced with making at the height of uncertainty.

I fear our society is becoming inured to its important moral and ethical responsibilities surrounding death. The medical profession, although slow to adopt and adapt compassionate and effective palliative and hospice care systems, it, along with its nursing colleagues, has made great strides since this law was implemented.

Legally authorizing invasive intravenous interventions to advance this cause is inappropriate. I urge you to vote NO on HB-2217.

Sincerely,
David A. Nardone, MD
Hillsboro, OR
(Retired) Internist

¹ **Physician, Nurse, Pharmacist, Emergency Medical Technician, IV Trained Professional**