



[#noNJsuiicide](#)



Oppose Assisted Suicide in New Jersey

- What:** Wrong 4 NJ: Assisted Suicide Lobby Day
- When:** Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Where:** Committee Room 3, 1st Floor in the State House Annex
- Security:** You will need a photo identification card to enter the building. You and your belongings will be screened by security personnel.
- Etiquette:** You cannot bring signs or placards into the building. Stickers will be provided. Do not use loud, abusive or threatening language under any circumstances.
- Food/Drink:** There is a dining room where you can purchase lunch or a snack. You may wish to bring a water bottle or snack.
- Restrooms:** Rest rooms are available for use.
- Parking:** In order to find parking in the State House parking garage you may need to arrive early. There is some street parking. There are also nearby parking garages.
- RSVP:** If you plan to join us, please let us know by October 14, 2016. Call 732-562-1990 ext. 1629 or email: jruggiero@diometuchen.org and leave your name and email so we can send updates.
- Follow-up:** Visit <https://patientsrightsaction.org/> or <http://www.noassistedsuicidenj.org/>

Physician-Assisted Suicide

What is at stake?

The so-called “Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act” (A 2451), a bill authorizing assisted suicide, was introduced earlier this year. The companion Senate bill (S2474), was introduced on August 2, 2016. Modeled after similar laws in Oregon and Washington, this legislation would ostensibly allow an adult, with a terminally illness who is thought to have six months or less to live, to ‘voluntarily’ request a prescription for life-ending medication that can be self-administered - if and when the individual chooses - to end their life.

In the previous legislative session, the Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act (previously call the “Death with Dignity Act”) was released from the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee and passed the full Assembly in a historic vote on November 13, 2014. Bill sponsors hope to bring the bill up for another vote this fall and advocates intend to keep the pressure on.

New Jersey “Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill” Act A2451/S2474

Would give a patient diagnosed with a terminal illness and given a prognosis of less than six months to live, the ability to request a lethal prescription to end his/her life. If passed physician-assisted suicide would become legal under New Jersey law.

Laws like these are Dangerous!

Suicide is always a tragedy

Reasons to Oppose A2451/S2474

- ▶ A 6-month prognosis for a terminal illness is extremely difficult to predict.
- ▶ There is no requirement for a patient to consult a psychiatrist before receiving the prescription to commit suicide, only if appropriate. Many terminally ill patients are clinically depressed.
- ▶ There is no requirement for the patient to consult a palliative care or hospice expert, it is only recommended.
- ▶ No physician is required to be present when the patient takes the lethal prescription.
- ▶ The physician is required to sign the patient’s death certificate, indicating the underlying illness as the cause of death, not the lethal prescription.
- ▶ We should be supporting improved hospice and palliative care state-wide, not legal suicide.
- ▶ The supposed safeguards are inadequate. And nothing in assisted suicide legislation will protect patients when there are pressures, whether financial or emotional, which distort patient choice.
- ▶ Assisted suicide legislation is a recipe for elder abuse. Key provisions allow an heir or abusive caregiver to serve as a witness and to communicate the desire for the lethal drugs for the patient if the patient is unable to do so and no witnesses are required when the drugs are taken.

Contact your state representatives and urge them to vote “NO” on A2451/S2474

If you don’t know who your state representatives are, call the Office of Legislative Services at 1-800-792-8630 or find your legislators here: <http://njcatholic.org/legislators-by-diocese>

**For more information visit: noassistedsuicidenj.org or www.usccb.org/toliveeachday
or call your local Diocesan Respect Life Office**