



Scholl Institute of Bioethics

Bioethics Review

Vol 12 No 1

The Scholl Institute of Bioethics is a nonprofit, Judeo-Christian organization that addresses bioethical issues including euthanasia, physician-assisted-suicide, the withholding or withdrawing of food and water from non-dying patients, brain death, organ transplantation, genetic engineering, and the rights of disabled or mentally ill persons.

THANK YOU! WE WILL NOT GIVE UP!

We at Scholl want to thank those of you who worked so diligently to gather signatures for the Referendum against Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS). We were not successful but some battles must be fought because they are just, not just because they are winnable. It is imperative that we repel the proponents of PAS because it is an evil practice that leads to euthanasia and we must not surrender to it.

You may be aware of the recent progression of PAS in Canada that now requires non-participating doctors to refer patients to doctors who will accommodate their desire for PAS. This is simply a natural progression of PAS that history verifies. It happened in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgian, and now has entered the western hemisphere. The significance is profound, and it isn't about PAS as much as it is about the perversion of the medical profession to accept and act upon the proposition of a life not worth living.

Legalized PAS is the high-profile defiance of the sanctity of life. Because PAS meets with determined resistance and backlash, dehydration is the preferred end of life method among pro-death doctors and unethical cost conscious health care providers.

Dehydration is difficult to detect, it is easily sold to unsuspecting or receptive families and is being practiced today at some hospitals. It simply places the victim under sufficient sedation to mask the need of food and water. As the victim succumbs of thirst, his natural escalating craving for water is suppressed with more sedatives. Usually the patient dies in 7 to 10 days.

Legalized PAS opens the door wide to this perversion. Once PAS is accepted, even if only state by state, it gives the green light to dehydration without the stigma of suicide, unless an informed public says NO!

This is where we are in California. This is why the battle continues against the ill-advised legalization of PAS signed into law by Governor Brown. We recognize that we are not fighting just PAS, but euthanasia personified in dehydration.

We have resolved to NOT be like those who have been 'cowed into accommodation' as in Oregon and the Netherlands

The day after Jerry Brown signed the 'assisted suicide law' Dr. Mark Hoffman petitioned the Attorney General for the citizens to have an opportunity to examine the law. That was the first step available to citizens to thwart a bad law. His commentary appears below.

By: Bob Cielnicki, Scholl Legislative Chairman and past President.

We will not give up!

by Dr. Mark Hoffman

My deepest thanks and appreciation to all who invested of themselves in our recent petition drive for a referendum opposing Governor Brown's 'Assisted Suicide' law. As demonstrated in every jurisdiction where such laws have been enacted, this measure will put our most vulnerable Californians at risk if it is allowed to go into effect.

We are disappointed to have failed to qualify the referendum for the next general election ballot, but we are not discouraged, and our work to oppose this law will not end or slacken.

We will forge ahead, exploring other options, including legal action to stop this from becoming law. We are committed to protect vulnerable seniors, the infirm and the disabled from being pressured to end their lives prematurely when others consider them to be a burden or might benefit financially from their death. We believe that every life is valuable and is entitled to protection, and hope to be able to count on your continued support.

The referendum process is a difficult and rarely attempted one as proponents have only 90 days to secure the signatures needed (over 365,000) to qualify the measure to the ballot. The difficulty inherent in conducting our petition drive within such a narrow window of time was further compounded by the three biggest holiday periods of the year - Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's - falling within that 90-day period. We know that over 156,000 signatures were in hand, and the total number likely exceeded over 200,000.

This referendum process proved to us that voters are concerned about this law once they learn about the many flaws it contains.

For example, even though virtually every terminally ill patient suffers from depression, this law does not require any psychological examination of a patient before a physician helps the individual commit suicide.

The law doesn't even require a witness to be present to ensure that a vulnerable person is not killed by a third-party who might benefit from the death, such as an heir or insurance beneficiary.

Death certificates are expected not to list the real cause of death since the law asserts that these killings would not be considered 'suicides'.

These each show great potential to exacerbate California's serious elder abuse problem, and our petition drive showed that when voters come to understand the law's flaws and implications, they reject it.

One of the reasons the courts should look at this: The so-called "physician assisted suicide" law failed to pass in regular session, but was re-introduced as ABX2-15, and passed by the Legislature in a special session for which the measure was not eligible to be considered. Shortly thereafter, Governor Brown signed it despite this illegality and misstated the law in his signing statement. It will not take effect until 90 days after the special session concludes, sometime in 2016.

The public policy of California should not allow vulnerable, depressed, terminally diagnosed citizens to be killed. Our laws should instead ensure that those with terminal diagnoses, seniors, the medically dependent, and the disabled receive the medical and psychological support they need when they are in a vulnerable state. We are determined to continue to champion this cause, and encourage you to continue to stand with us.

We have resolved to NOT be like those who have been 'cowed into accommodation' as in Oregon and the Netherlands.

In addition to forthcoming legal action, this fight is in no way over in California, there are many impactful

projects we are planning for our state. Please join us at our website, stopassistedsuicide.com to find out more. Please consider joining with any of our important committees, or if you know professionals willing to volunteer their services, please let us know.

I was honored to act on your behalf and the many diverse organizations in California dedicated to protecting these vulnerable patients. We will be moving forward with even greater resolve!

Again, thank you for your extraordinary help!

Sincerely,

Mark Hoffman, Ph.D.

Proponent; Referendum in Opposition to Physician Assisted Suicide Spokesman, Seniors and Others Against Suicide

Coalition Against Assisted Suicide
Box 1678

Sacramento, CA 95812

<http://stopassistedsuicide.com/> 855-668-5455

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Scholl has information to help a person, family members and/or a caregiver make informed decisions before it is an emergency.

Go to: www.schollbioethics.org

Do you have the latest and best Advance Health Care Directive and Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare? We can help. LOOK UNDER: Medical Directives and the Speaker's Bureau

Hospice Research: Do you know what to ask when investigating different hospices? Go to Resources for an excellent list of questions.

Our informative **Bioethics Review** has timeless information that can make the difference between life and death. Look under **PDF Library**. Here are some especially current topics that can be of help.

- **Is It Terminal? Is It Palliative?** Learn the difference and why it is important.
- **What is POLST?** Scholl strongly suggests no one sign this document. Find out why including a personal testimony.
- What can the red dot mean on a license? Look under **Death and the Organ Donor**. Also be sure and read the story on the backside "**Life Is Good**". This true story always gives hope when all else looks bleak.