



Diocese of Manchester

The Catholic Church in New Hampshire

CONTACT YOUR NH REPRESENTATIVES AND OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

Real Compassion—NOT SUICIDE—is the Answer

The New Hampshire Legislature is considering a bill (HB 1283) to legalize assisted suicide in this state. The public hearing is **February 7 at 10 a.m.** in the House Judiciary Committee.

We know that our priority should be to **care for the patient, not to kill the patient.** As Pope Francis has said, “We must accompany people towards death, but not provoke death or facilitate any form of suicide.” *Catechesis at General Audience*, Feb. 9, 2022.

We are working alongside the NH Coalition for Suicide Prevention, a diverse group that includes health care providers and people with disabilities and their advocates.

Among the many reasons why HB 1283 is a dangerous bill:

- New Hampshire has a serious suicide crisis, especially among groups including at-risk teens, veterans with traumatic brain injury and people living with disabilities. In response, the State is trying to eliminate suicide. But HB 1283 would *normalize* suicide as medical care and send a message that dangerously contradicts suicide prevention efforts.
- History shows that laws on state-approved suicide have a natural tendency to expand in scope. HB 1283 applies to people with a terminal illness with 6 months left to live. If HB 1283 is passed, how would the law be expanded next year and in the years after that?
- The top reasons given by people who end their lives under Oregon’s assisted suicide law include “fear of being a burden to others” and “loss of independence.” Because these are things that people with disabilities encounter every day, one prominent NH advocate has said that passage of an assisted suicide law is like saying to people with disabilities that “you are better off dead.”
- An assisted suicide law invites coercion. Elder abuse and exploitation are already significant problems in this state and nationwide. Assisted suicide puts a new weapon into the hands of exploiters – the opportunity to persuade someone to use the assisted suicide law.

Let us have *true* compassion and recognize and defend the inalienable dignity and value of every human being, at *all* stages of life and in *all* conditions of life.

HELP TO STOP STATE-APPROVED SUICIDE

- **Before Feb. 7, sign-in online to register opposition to HB 1283 at:**
gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/remotetestimony
- **Contact your House members and respectfully ask them to reject HB 1283.**

Your representatives are listed at:
gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members

For live links and more information:
catholicnh.org/nosuicide