

I am strongly opposed to HB 1415.

As an attorney practicing primarily estate planning, I know that the stated goals of this bill can be accomplished easily with simple end of life documents and a notary. Anyone who has the capacity to execute assisted suicide consent forms also has the capacity to execute a DNR or a Healthcare Directive indicating their wishes, and with a lot less stress than under the requirements in this bill. We do not need overlapping, redundant legislation.

Furthermore, given the startling rise of mental health issues we are seeing in this country, do we really want to be a state that in any way promotes or endorses suicide? I am concerned when I read about the rising rates of suicides and attempted suicides, including the rising number of suicides among minors (some as young as 9 years old, see Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada). I believe we should embrace and celebrate life, and teach our kids to do the same, rather than inadvertently or overtly endorse doctor-assisted death.

Finally, I do not believe it is fair to the physicians who would be called upon to perform these procedures. I think it's safe to assume that doctors choose their field in order to preserve life and learn life-saving skills and techniques. Performing doctor-assisted suicide isn't normally a reason someone would choose to go to medical school.