

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, Chairman  
Senate Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB128 (Wolk and Monning) Oppose

Dear Chairman Hernandez:

Your committee will consider SB128 (Wolk and Monning) on March 25. This measure will legalize physician-assisted suicide in California. I ask that you and the other committee members oppose this bill.

Human life is sacred. Physicians are to be healers and have taken an oath to protect life. There have been tremendous advances in palliative care, allowing doctors and hospice workers to provide adequate pain medication, counseling for emotional needs, and comfort for terminal patients. Thus, SB 128 is simply not necessary and could be a dangerous road to travel. This is why organizations representing the disabled and other vulnerable populations are adamantly opposed to the direction SB 128 would take our state.

You see, people with terminal diseases, disabilities and the elderly are vulnerable to potential pressure they may feel if they perceive themselves to be a burden to others. Incredibly, SB 128 has no safeguards against elder abuse, nor any requirement that family be notified of a patient's intent. The bill fails on many levels, but primarily because it devalues life.

Once again, I ask for your "no" vote on SB128.

Sincerely,