

## Minnesota's Proposed Assisted Suicide Bill: Consider the Full Impacts

Reduced to a headline, proposed legislation to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Minnesota can sound like a compassionate option to relieve suffering for people facing serious illnesses.

**But dig deeper and discover how these bills would harm thousands of Minnesotans.**



### Exacerbates financial disparities

Surveys show the fear of **being a financial burden on loved ones** is the number one reason people seek assisted suicide. Mounting healthcare costs is a driving force behind that. More than 10% of Minnesotans of color and Native Americans are uninsured,<sup>[1]</sup> increasing the risk they may feel pressured to make a life-ending choice.



### Amplify health care inequities

Minnesotans with disabilities, people of color, the elderly and people with limited income currently face **significant barriers** to consistent quality health care. They also experience higher rates of disease due to **systemic inequities** that impact health, such as education, housing and income. Legalizing assisted suicide would deepen these existing barriers. People experiencing inequities would likely qualify for assisted suicide at higher rates and feel added pressure to select it over more costly care options.<sup>[2]</sup>



### Blur line between life-enhancing and life-ending care

Providers would be required to offer assisted suicide as a **standard treatment option** in qualifying situations, even if a patient has never considered or requested it. Suicide would be presented as an equal option to treatments that can ease pain and maintain quality of life.



### Erode doctor-patient relationships

Doctors pledge to uphold the utmost respect for human life, and people expect physicians to help them. Assisted suicide would make it **harder to trust** that doctors are prioritizing a patient's best interests.

As Minnesota's population ages, now is the time to fully understand the full impacts of assisted suicide legislation. No one should be compelled to accept assisted suicide as their only or best option. Actions taken today will impact Minnesotans for decades to come.



**Please oppose the Minnesota End-of-Life Option Act (HF 1930/SF 1813).**

#### Sources

<sup>[1]</sup>Minnesota Department of Health, 2021 Minnesota Health Access Survey (press release, infographic)

<sup>[2]</sup>American Cancer Society: The State of Cancer Disparities in the United States, National Cancer Institute: Cancer Disparities





# Hear From Real Minnesotans

"My neck was broken in a car accident, and I became a quadriplegic, paralyzed below my shoulders. Although life has not been easy and I occasionally deal with serious medical conditions, I can honestly say I'm grateful to be alive. But I might not be if assisted suicide had been legal in Minnesota at the time of my accident."

- Jean



"If this bill was passed, it would be telling people that if you don't want to feel like a burden, you should go to the doctor to end your life. I don't want people to look at my son and see a dollar sign, to see a burden and not my son who is inherently valuable to us."

- Kathy

"If my father had chosen to end his life by physician-assisted suicide when he found out he had advanced lung cancer, I would probably never have become a cancer nurse. The intentional taking of life can rob us of the many unexpected gifts we can receive from a dying loved one."

- Ronald



**Please oppose the Minnesota End-of-Life Option Act (HF 1930/SF 1813).**

