

Testimony of Don Nelson
Nevada Right To Life
Senate Human and Human Services
Regarding SB239
March 14, 2023

I'm Don Nelson. I represent Nevada Right to Life. We oppose this bill for many reasons. It doesn't matter how the law defines assisted suicide, it's still assisted suicide and euthanasia. It will require the assistance of the medical community by permitting it and prescribing the drugs to commit suicide. SB239 would legalize Doctor Assisted Suicide, doctors and other medical personnel would do not want to be involved must refer patients even if it violates their consciences.

Assisted violates the American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics Opinions 5.7 which says that "permitting physicians to engage in assisted suicide would ultimately cause more harm than good. Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks." Code of Medical Ethics Opinions 5.7

The ancient Hippocratic Oath says, "I will give no deadly medicine to any one if asked, nor suggest any such counsel."

Anthropologist Margaret Mead "society always is attempting to make the physician into a killer – to kill the defective child at birth, to leave the sleeping pills beside the bed of the cancer patient... It is the duty of society to protect the physician from such requests."

Doctor Prescribed Suicide ultimately devalues, demeans, dehumanizes and threatens people with conditions that would qualify them for or allow them to access doctor prescribed suicide. We oppose any notion that certain lives are not worth living or are "life unworthy of life." Doctor prescribed suicide and the belief that some lives are not worth living is inimical to human rights and the dignity of all human beings. It puts a target on whole classes of people with these conditions deemed to allow one to commit suicide with the help of a doctor. We fear it will create a sense of a duty to die and that people with conditions that are said to legitimize suicide will feel compelled to die and get out of the way.

There are many more reasons. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Don Nelson
Nevada Right to Life