

R028-0506

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING**
20 **THE LEGALIZATION OF PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE**

30 **WHEREAS:** Many people suffer from incurable diseases and would prefer a quick
40 and painless death on their own terms instead a drawn-out and painful
50 death due to their terminal illness; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** Despite advances in technology and medicine, not all forms of pain can
70 be effectively treated by doctors; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** In 1994 and again in 1997, the citizens of Oregon voted in favor of the
90 Death With Dignity Act, permitting physicians to write prescriptions
100 for lethal doses of medication to people with terminal illnesses; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** In 2006, in the case of *Gonzales v. Oregon*, the United States Supreme
120 Court voted to uphold the Death With Dignity Act; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** The Oregon law, while allowing physician-assisted suicide, places
140 many restrictions on the practice; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** Such restrictions include limiting physician-assisted suicide to adult
160 Oregon residents that have been diagnosed with a terminal illness that
170 will cause death in the next six months; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** Patients who choose physician-assisted suicide must be capable in the
190 eyes of their physician of making and communicating decisions
200 regarding their own health; and,

210 **WHEREAS:** The diagnosis and mental competency of a patient must also be verified
220 by a consulting physician; and,

230 **WHEREAS:** If either the primary physician or the consulting physician feel that the
240 patient may suffering from a psychological disorder, such as
250 depression, the patient must be referred for a psychological
260 examination; and,

270 **WHEREAS:** Patients must make two oral requests to their physician fifteen days
280 apart, as well as make a request in writing in the presence of two
290 witnesses, at least of one whom is not related to the patient; and,

300 **WHEREAS:** The patient may rescind the requests at anytime; and,

310 **WHEREAS:** The patient's physician must inform the patient of alternatives to
320 assisted suicide, such as hospice care or pain management therapy; and,

330 **WHEREAS:** Under the law, patients must also administer their own dose of lethal
340 medication; and,

350 **WHEREAS:** Physician participation in physician-assisted suicide is completely
360 voluntary.

370 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
380 Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation, similar to the Oregon
390 Death With Dignity Act, which would legalize physician-assisted

400 suicide in the state of Maryland; and,

410 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature also urges the
420 Governor to sign such legislation into law.

430 **MANDATES:** Robert L. Ehrlich, Governor of Maryland
440 Michael Steele, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland
450 Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate
460 Mike E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates
470 Nathaniel J. McFadden, Senate Majority Leader
480 J. Lowell Stoltzfus, Senate Minority Leader
490 Kumar P. Barve, House Majority Leader
500 George C. Edwards, House Minority Leader

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