

NEVADA GIRLS STATE
ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Memorializes the 2011 session of the Nevada Legislature to enact legislation that will allow every competent adult the incontestable right to humankind's ultimate civil and personal liberty – the right to die in a manner and at a time of their own choosing (euthanasia).

WHEREAS, assisted suicide would be an alternative to suffering due to physical pain, psychological distress or terminal illnesses and would allow the end to a patient's suffering in a controlled environment; and

WHEREAS, some terminally ill patients are allowed to end their lives by refusing medical treatments; in all fairness, those who don't have that option should be allowed to choose death; and

WHEREAS, legal or not, assisted suicides occur, and it would be better if they were brought into the open; and

WHEREAS, the expenses of living in a retirement home with a terminal illness are steep and if it is a patient's desire to end their life this would not only be the benefit of that person but also to the benefit of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence declares every citizen the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, this is ever present in the desire to end one's suffering by the use of assisted suicide; and

WHEREAS, society recognizes the competent patient's right to autonomy (to decide what will or won't be done to his or her body), if patients seek such help, it is cruel to leave them to fend for themselves, weighting option that are both traumatic and uncertain, when humane assistance could be made available; and

WHEREAS, the physician's obligations are many but, when cure is impossible and palliation has failed to achieve its objectives, there is always a residual obligation to relieve suffering; therefore, if the physician has exhausted all reasonable palliative measures, it is the patient – and only the patient – who can judge whether death is harmful or good to be sought; and

WHEREAS, countless states and countries, including: the Netherlands, Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, Columbia, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, and Oregon have enacted this program and have seen great success and appreciation from its clients.

WHEREAS, states that have already enacted similar legislation have had very satisfactory results; therefore, be it RESOLVED BY THE GIRLS STATE OF NEVADA, assembled in Carson City July 1, 2011 that the 2013 session of the Nevada Legislature is hereby memorialized to enact legislation to allow patients suffering, often from a terminal illness, to have the option of assisted suicide, in order to peacefully and in a controlled environment, end their life with the terms and conditions listed above.