

RESOURCES TO OPPOSE LEGALIZED PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

PARISH TOOL KIT | MARYLAND 2025

Members of the Maryland General Assembly have introduced legislation that would legalize death via physician assisted suicide in Maryland. A doctor could prescribe a lethal drug cocktail that can take hours, even days, for a person to die.

We need your help now! **Please use these resources to pray, teach and act on behalf of compassionate protection for life.** Alerts and updates will be shared with members of the Catholic Advocacy Network so please encourage parishioners to join - and call us if you have any questions about how your parish can get involved.

RESOURCES (English and Spanish; also can download from mdcatholic.org/pas)

1. Letter from Maryland's Catholic Bishops (PDF)
2. Flocknote/bulletin announcements
3. General intercessions
4. Prayer card
5. Novena
6. Graphics
7. Fact sheet from MAPAS coalition (Maryland Against Physician Assisted Suicide) - English only
8. Catholic Advocacy Network signup
10. Online only: webinars in English and Spanish



Put your faith into action. Join the Catholic Advocacy Network.

Archdiocese of Baltimore | Archdiocese of Washington | Diocese of Wilmington | mdcatholic.org | @mdcatholic

A Better Way Forward

A message on physician assisted suicide from the Catholic Bishops of Maryland

January 2024

We are deeply disappointed to learn that once again the Maryland General Assembly will debate whether to legalize physician assisted suicide.

The central tenet guiding our opposition to this deadly proposal is that all human life is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore sacred.

In 2024, medical advancements and improvements in pain management mean we can make individuals with terminal illnesses comfortable and improve the quality of the remainder of their lives without them feeling the need to reluctantly choose a “dignified death.”

Enhance End of Life Care

Therefore, it is incumbent upon each of us to ensure that those at the end of their lives can experience a death that doesn't include offering a form of suicide prescribed by a doctor.

We believe our elected officials should work to improve access to the network of care available to Maryland families by increasing access to palliative and hospice care, enhancing end-of-life education and training opportunities for physicians, and ensuring that there is appropriate diagnosis and treatment for depression and other mental and behavioral health issues.

Legislation Lacks Safeguards

The proponents of this legislation claim that that this policy offers an “option” to a very small set of individuals who are suffering from a terminal illness with less than six months to live, claiming this option will help them maintain control and dignity during their final days on earth.

This legislation ignores the reality facing many in such conditions and is woefully lacking in the types of meaningful safeguards that would prevent this unnecessary and drastic option. Such safeguards include mandated mental health assessments, reporting requirements, safe disposal of unused medication or prohibitions against expansion of this program.

Vulnerable Individuals are at Risk

In every state or country where this dangerous policy has been legalized grave abuses and expansion have occurred,



making assisted suicide available to far more people and not just those facing imminent death.

This legislation puts our most vulnerable brothers and sisters at risk of making decisions for themselves that are manipulated by factors such as disability, mental instability, poverty and isolation. Maryland has accurately recognized that suicide is a serious public health concern in the general population and has offered substantial resources to address the concern. At a time when our nation is grappling with how to address a frighteningly high suicide rate it is deeply illogical for the State of Maryland to be seeking ways to facilitate suicide for those with a terminal illness, all the while claiming such preventable and unnecessary deaths are somehow dignified.

A Better Path Forward

There is a better path forward for the people of Maryland and it does not involve suicide. As Pope Francis reminds us: “We must accompany people towards death, but not provoke death or facilitate assisted suicide. I would point out that the right to care and treatment for all must always be prioritized, so that the weakest, particularly the elderly and the sick, are never discarded. Indeed, life is a right, not death, which must be welcomed, not administered. And this ethical principle applies to everyone, not just Christians or believers.”¹

We urge all people of good will to demand that our lawmakers reject suicide as an end-of-life option and to choose the better, safer path that involves radical solidarity with those facing the end of their earthly journey. Let us choose the path that models true compassion and dignity to those facing end of life decisions and protects the most vulnerable from the deadly proposition of physician assisted suicide.

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore

Wilton Cardinal Gregory
Archbishop of Washington

Most Reverend William Koenig
Bishop of Wilmington



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¹Pope Francis, General Audience, Feb. 9, 2022

Un mejor camino a seguir

Un mensaje sobre el suicidio asistido por un médico de los obispos católicos de Maryland | enero 2024



Estamos profundamente decepcionados al saber que una vez más la Asamblea General de Maryland debatirá si se debe legalizar el suicidio asistido por un médico.

El principio central que guía nuestra oposición a esta propuesta mortal es que toda vida humana es creada a imagen y semejanza de Dios y, por lo tanto, sagrada.

En el 2024, los avances médicos y las mejoras en el manejo del dolor significarán que podremos hacer que las personas con enfermedades terminales se sientan cómodas y mejorar la calidad del resto de sus vidas sin que sientan la necesidad de elegir de mala gana una “muerte digna”.

Mejorar la atención al final de la vida

Por lo tanto, nos corresponde a cada uno de nosotros garantizar que aquellos al final de sus vidas puedan experimentar una muerte que no incluya ofrecer una forma de suicidio prescrita por un médico. Creemos que nuestros funcionarios electos deben trabajar para mejorar el acceso a la red de atención disponible para las familias de Maryland aumentando el acceso a cuidados paliativos, mejorando las oportunidades de educación y capacitación sobre el final de la vida para los médicos y garantizando que exista un diagnóstico y tratamiento adecuados para la depresión y otros problemas de salud mental y conductual.

La legislación no tiene protecciones significativas

Los defensores de esta legislación afirman que esta política ofrece una “opción” a un grupo muy pequeño de personas que padecen una enfermedad terminal y les quedan menos de seis meses de vida, afirmando que esta opción les ayudará a mantener el control y la dignidad durante sus últimos días en la tierra.

Esta legislación ignora la realidad que enfrentan muchas personas en tales condiciones y lamentablemente carece del tipo de protecciones significativas que evitarían esta opción innecesaria y drástica. Dichas protecciones incluyen evaluaciones de salud mental obligatorias, requisitos de presentación de informes, eliminación segura de medicamentos no utilizados o prohibiciones contra la expansión de este programa.

Pone en riesgo a las personas vulnerables

En todos los estados o países donde se ha legalizado esta peligrosa política se han producido graves abusos y expansión, lo que ha hecho que el suicidio asistido esté

disponible para muchas más personas y no sólo para aquellas que enfrentan una muerte inminente.

Esta legislación pone a nuestros hermanos y hermanas más vulnerables en riesgo de tomar decisiones por sí mismos manipuladas por factores como la discapacidad, la inestabilidad mental, la pobreza y el aislamiento. Maryland ha reconocido con precisión que el suicidio es un problema grave de salud pública en la población general y ha ofrecido recursos sustanciales para abordarlo. En un momento en el que nuestra nación está debatiendo cómo abordar una tasa de suicidio alarmantemente alta, es profundamente ilógico que el estado de Maryland esté buscando formas de facilitar el suicidio para aquellos con una enfermedad terminal, al mismo tiempo que afirma que esas muertes evitables e innecesarias son de alguna manera dignas.

Un mejor camino a seguir

Existe un mejor camino a seguir para el pueblo de Maryland y no implica el suicidio. Como nos recuerda el Papa Francisco: “Debemos acompañar a las personas hacia la muerte, pero no provocar la muerte ni facilitar el suicidio asistido. Quisiera señalar que siempre debe darse prioridad al derecho a la atención y al tratamiento para todos, de modo que nunca se descarte a los más débiles, en particular a los ancianos y a los enfermos. De hecho, la vida es un derecho, no la muerte, que debe ser bienvenida, no administrada. Y este principio ético se aplica a todos, no sólo a los cristianos o creyentes”.¹

Instamos a todas las personas de buena voluntad a exigir que nuestros legisladores rechacen el suicidio como una opción al final de la vida y elijan el camino mejor y más seguro que implique una solidaridad radical con quienes enfrentan el final de su viaje terrenal. Elijamos el camino que modele la verdadera compasión y dignidad para quienes enfrentan decisiones al final de la vida y proteja a los más vulnerables de la propuesta mortal del suicidio asistido por un médico.

Reverendísimo William E. Lori
Arzobispo de Baltimore

Su Eminencia Wilton Cardinal Gregory
Arzobispo de Washington

Reverendísimo William Koenig
Obispo de Wilmington



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¹Papa Francisco, Audiencia General, 9 de febrero de 2022

PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

FLOCKNOTE | BULLETIN

What actually happens in a physician-assisted suicide?

A doctor prescribes a lethal drug cocktail that a person picks up at the local pharmacy that a person has to grind up or add to liquid and then inject. The person may not die for hours or even days. There are no requirements for a witness or notification of family. Assisted suicide isn't dignified, it's deadly. Tell your Maryland legislators: NO assisted suicide. Visit mdcatholic.org/pas

Physician-assisted suicide incentivizes denying cancer treatment

In states where assisted suicide is legal, insurance companies have turned down coverage for cancer treatment but offered to pay for suicide drugs instead. Stop this from happening in Maryland. Tell your state legislators: NO assisted suicide. Visit mdcatholic.org/pas

Physician-assisted suicide targets the elderly

Elderly in Maryland have a higher rate of suicide than any other age group – double the teen suicide rate. Yet a proposed physician assisted suicide bill does not require a mental health evaluation to screen for depression. Assisted suicide isn't compassionate, it's deadly. Tell your state legislators: NO assisted suicide. Visit mdcatholic.org/pas

Physician-assisted suicide tells people they're burdensome

In Oregon, data shows people request suicide drugs not for pain, but because they can't do the same activities that they could before, can't control bodily functions, feel they've lost dignity or feel they are a burden. Suicide drugs aren't the answer. Everyone deserves loving, supportive care, affirmation of their dignity, and to know that they are never a burden. Tell your state legislators: NO assisted suicide. Visit mdcatholic.org/pas

Physician-assisted suicide is dangerous for Maryland

If assisted suicide became legal, several kinds of lethal drugs would be prescribed and then be dispensed at your neighborhood pharmacy. Data shows that where assisted suicide is legal, up to 40% of the drugs are never used – and there are no requirements for their disposal. They could end up in the hands of our children. Tell your legislators: NO assisted suicide. Visit mdcatholic.org/pas

Disability rights activists oppose physician-assisted suicide

Major disability rights groups including the National Council on Disability oppose physician-assisted suicide. Disabled people already face prejudice from doctors and people who assume they're "better dead than disabled." Assisted suicide encourages this kind of prejudice. People with disabilities deserve care, not suicide. Tell your state legislators: NO assisted suicide. Visit mdcatholic.org/pas

Doctors oppose physician-assisted suicide

The American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, and dozens of other medical groups oppose physician-assisted suicide. The AMA says, "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer." Physicians are entrusted with saving lives, not ending them. Tell your legislators: NO assisted suicide. Visit mdcatholic.org/pas

PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

FLOCKNOTE | BULLETIN

Marylanders deserve excellent pain management, not physician-assisted suicide

Maryland has excellent, modern palliative care programs to alleviate suffering – no one's pain should be unmanageable in our state. Hospice care is paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance. Marylanders deserve the best in pain management and quality care, not suicide drugs. Tell your legislators: NO assisted suicide. Visit mdcatholic.org/pas

Join the Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network

Our state's General Assembly creates laws that affect us, our church, families and vulnerable neighbors. Put your faith into action with the Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network. Stay informed and join your voice to Catholics statewide on critical issues. Members get action alerts on critical issues plus occasional email updates from the Maryland Catholic Conference: mdcatholic.org/joincan.

ESPAÑOL - ANUNCIOS PARA EL BOLETÍN/CORREO ELECTRÓNICO

¿Qué sucede realmente en un suicidio asistido por un médico?

Un médico prescribe un cóctel de drogas letales que una persona compra en la farmacia local y toma. Es posible que la persona no muera durante horas o incluso días. Además, no se exige la presencia de testigos o notificación a la familia. El suicidio asistido no es digno, es mortífero. Dícales "no" a los legisladores de Maryland: NO al suicidio asistido. Visite mdcatholic.org/pas

El suicidio asistido por un médico incentiva la negativa a cubrir tratamientos contra el cáncer

En aquellos estados donde el suicidio asistido es legal, las compañías de seguro se han negado a cubrir tratamientos contra el cáncer, pero sí ofrecen pagar medicamentos letales. No permita que esto suceda en Maryland. Dícales "no" a los legisladores de su Estado: NO al suicidio asistido. Visite mdcatholic.org/pas

El suicidio asistido por un médico alienta el suicidio de los ancianos

En Maryland, el índice de suicidios en ancianos es mayor que en cualquier otro grupo etario, el doble que en adolescentes. Sin embargo, un proyecto de ley de suicidio asistido por un médico no exigiría evaluaciones de salud mental para detectar casos de depresión. El suicidio asistido no es digno, es mortífero. Dícales "no" a los legisladores de su Estado: NO al suicidio asistido. Visite mdcatholic.org/pas

El suicidio asistido por un médico les dice a las personas que son una carga

En Oregon, los datos revelan que las personas solicitan medicamentos letales, no tanto para aliviar el dolor, sino porque no pueden hacer las mismas actividades que realizaban antes, no pueden controlar las funciones corporales, sienten que han perdido su dignidad o se consideran una carga. Los medicamentos letales no son la respuesta. Todo ser humano merece cuidado afectuoso y compasivo, afirmación de su dignidad y saber que no es ni será una carga. Dícales "no" a los legisladores de su Estado: NO al suicidio asistido. Visite mdcatholic.org/pas

El suicidio asistido por un médico es peligroso para Maryland

Si el suicidio asistido fuera legal, a la misma persona se le podrían recetar varios tipos de pastillas letales. Estos medicamentos letales se venderían en la farmacia de su vecindario. Los datos revelan que, en los lugares donde el suicidio asistido es legal, el 40 % de los medicamentos queda sin utilizar, y no hay requisitos para su desecho. Podrían terminar en manos de nuestros hijos. Dígales “no” a sus legisladores: NO al suicidio asistido. Visite mdcatholic.org/pas.

Los activistas defensores de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad se oponen al suicidio asistido por un médico

Los grupos más importantes de defensa de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, incluido el National Council on Disability, se oponen al suicidio médicamente asistido. Las personas con discapacidad ya enfrentan los prejuicios de médicos y personas que suponen que “es mejor estar muerto que discapacitado”. El suicidio asistido fomenta esta clase de prejuicios. Las personas con discapacidad merecen cuidado, no suicidio. Dígales “no” a los legisladores de su Estado: NO al suicidio asistido. Visite mdcatholic.org/pas.

Los médicos se oponen al suicidio asistido por un médico

La American Medical Association (AMA, Asociación Médica Estadounidense), la American Psychiatric Association (Asociación Estadounidense de Psiquiatría) y decenas de otros grupos médicos se oponen al suicidio médicamente asistido. Según la AMA: “El suicidio asistido por un médico es, en esencia, incompatible con el rol del médico como sanador”. La tarea de los médicos es salvar vidas, no acabar con ellas. Dígales “no” a sus legisladores: NO al suicidio asistido. Visite mdcatholic.org/pas.

Los residentes de Maryland merecen un excelente tratamiento del dolor y no el suicidio asistido por un médico

Maryland cuenta con excelentes y modernos programas de cuidados paliativos para aliviar el sufrimiento: el dolor de nadie debe ser inmanejable en nuestro Estado. Medicare, Medicaid y los seguros privados cubren la atención y los cuidados para enfermos terminales. Los residentes de Maryland merecen lo mejor en cuanto a tratamiento del dolor y cuidados de calidad, y no medicamentos letales. Dígales “no” a sus legisladores: NO al suicidio asistido. Visite mdcatholic.org/pas.

Únase a la Red de Defensa Católica de Maryland

La Asamblea Legislativa de nuestro Estado sanciona leyes que nos afectan a nosotros, a nuestra Iglesia, a nuestras familias y a nuestros vecinos vulnerables. La Red de Defensa Católica de Maryland nos mantiene informados y nos da una voz. Usted recibirá información actualizada de la Conferencia Católica de Maryland (de manera ocasional, por correo electrónico), además de alertas de acción sobre los temas que elija: visite mdcatholic.org/joincan.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

For all who are about to die: that through our love, care, and devotion, they might know the beauty of life, as they prepare for death; We pray to the Lord:

For all people in nursing homes: that we would be inspired to visit them, and remind them of their great worth; We pray to the Lord:

For those denied adequate care: that we might stand up for their God-given dignity and assist them in their needs; We pray to the Lord:

For all who are forgotten or thrown away, and especially for the poor, the sick and the aged: that God might change our hearts and move us to love them as the image of Christ; We pray to the Lord:

For those who have grown tired of life, and especially for those tempted to suicide: that God might grant them patient endurance and the support of loved ones; We pray to the Lord:

For those tempted to despair because of constant pain: that they might join their suffering to the Cross of Christ; We pray to the Lord:

For nurses and all professionals who care for the sick and dying: that they will be given the grace to love each patient with the love of Christ, and to never see those they care for as a burden; We pray to the Lord:

For those who have grown weak or infirm: that we might see God's power in their fragility and experience a new revelation of God's love for them; We pray to the Lord:

For elderly parents and godparents: that the love and respect of their children might sustain them and bring them joy; We pray to the Lord:

That the sick may find strength and courage in the cross of Christ and discover the redemptive value of their suffering; We pray to the Lord:



Put your faith into action. Join the Catholic Advocacy Network.

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ESPAÑOL - Intercesiones por los enfermos, los ancianos y los moribundos

Por todos los que están a punto de morir: para que a través de nuestro amor, cuidado y devoción, puedan conocer la belleza de la vida, mientras se preparan para la muerte; Roguemos al Señor:

Para todas las personas en hogares de ancianos: que nos inspire a visitarlos y recordarles su gran valor; Roguemos al Señor:

Para aquellos a quienes se les niega la atención adecuada: para que podamos defender su dignidad dada por Dios y ayudarlos en sus necesidades; Roguemos al Señor:

Por todos los olvidados o desechados, y especialmente por los pobres, los enfermos y los ancianos: para que Dios cambie nuestro corazón y nos mueva a amarlos como imagen de Cristo; Roguemos al Señor:

Por los que se han cansado de la vida, y especialmente por los tentados al suicidio: que Dios les conceda la paciencia y el apoyo de sus seres queridos; Roguemos al Señor:

Por los tentados a la desesperación por el dolor constante: para unir su sufrimiento a la Cruz de Cristo; Roguemos al Señor:

Por las enfermeras y todos los profesionales que atienden a los enfermos y moribundos: que se les conceda la gracia de amar a cada paciente con el amor de Cristo, y nunca ver a los que cuidan como una carga; Roguemos al Señor:

Para aquellos que se han debilitado o enfermado: para que podamos ver el poder de Dios en su fragilidad y experimentar una nueva revelación del amor de Dios por ellos; Roguemos al Señor:

Por los padres y padrinos ancianos: que el amor y el respeto de sus hijos los sostenga y les dé alegría; Roguemos al Señor:

Para que los enfermos encuentren fuerza y valor en la cruz de Cristo y descubran el valor redentor de su sufrimiento; Roguemos al Señor:

PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

PRINTABLES AND GRAPHICS

PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

PRAYER CARD

DOWNLOAD PDF: WWW.MDCATHOLIC.ORG/PAS



Prayer against assisted suicide

Merciful God, we pray with thanks and gratitude for the great spiritual gift of Saint John Paul II's apostolic life and mission.

Through his heavenly intercession we ask for the defeat of the physician assisted suicide bill and that the infinite worth of each human person is upheld through proper investment in palliative care.

Grant also that we may grow in love for You and proclaim boldly the love of Jesus Christ to all people.

Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



Novena: mdcatholic.org/pas | Image: Basilica of the Assumption (*Catholic Review*)



Oración contra el suicidio asistido

Dios misericordioso, oramos con agradecimiento y gratitud por el gran don espiritual de la vida y misión apostólica de San Juan Pablo II.

Por su intercesión celestial pedimos la derrota del proyecto de ley de suicidio asistido por un médico y que el valor infinito de cada persona humana se mantenga mediante una inversión adecuada en cuidados paliativos.

Concédenos también que crezcamos en el amor por Ti y proclamemos con valentía el amor de Jesucristo a todas las personas.

Por Cristo, Nuestro Señor. Amén.



Novena: mdcatholic.org/pas | Imagen: Basilica de la Asuncion (*Catholic Review*)

Novena to Saint John Paul II for life and against physician assisted suicide in Maryland

ABOUT THE NOVENA

This novena, nine days of intercessory prayer, can be prayed starting anytime in January, February and March 2024 to urge the defeat of physician assisted suicide legislation in Maryland. We pray for a commitment by our elected officials to prioritize palliative care and support for those most at risk from physician assisted suicide: those with disabilities, who are nearing the end of life, or are struggling with a mental illness. We pray to Saint John Paul II, who showed us the value of human life through his own struggles and faith.

Novena

START THE NOVENA WITH THIS PRAYER EACH DAY

Merciful God, we pray with thanks and gratitude for the great spiritual gift of Saint John Paul II's apostolic life and mission.

Through his heavenly intercession we ask for the defeat of the physician assisted suicide bill and that the infinite worth of each human person is upheld through proper investment in palliative care.

Grant also that we may grow in love for You and proclaim boldly the love of Jesus Christ to all people. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

DAILY QUOTE/REFLECTION:

Read the day's quote or reflection (on the next page)

CONCLUDE THE NOVENA EACH DAY WITH THESE PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily
bread, and forgive us our
trespasses,

as we forgive those who
trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy
womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our
death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.



Novena to Saint John Paul II | Day One

All life has "inestimable value" — "even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

Pope Francis, July 2013

Novena Day Two

"A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized. Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace."

Evangelium Vitae, 101

Novena Day Three

"A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying."

Pope Saint John Paul II, May 2000

Novena Day Four

"Respecting the dignity of people who are dying must involve respecting their lives, for without life there is no dignity."

Cherishing Life, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2004

Novena Day Five

"Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion or euthanasia are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual; they thus deny the equality of everyone before the law."

Evangelium Vitae, 72

Novena Day Six

"As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?"

Pope Saint John Paul II, 1999

Novena Day Seven

"Fragility, pain and illness are a difficult trial for everyone...they are an appeal for patience, for suffering-with; we cannot give in to...temptation to apply quick and drastic solutions, stirred by false compassion or by simple criteria of efficiency and economic saving....True compassion marginalizes no one...much less consider their death as a good thing."

Pope Francis, June 2016

Novena Day Eight

"We deserve to grow old in a society that views our cares and needs with a compassion grounded in respect, offering genuine support in our final days. The choices we make together now will decide whether this is the kind of caring society we will leave to future generations. "

To Live Each Day with Dignity, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2011

Novena Day Nine

"Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!"

Pope Saint John Paul II, 2001

Novena a San Juan Pablo II

Por la vida y contra el suicidio asistido por un médico en Maryland

SOBRE LA NOVENA

Esta novena, de nueve días de oración intercesora, se puede rezar a partir de enero, febrero y marzo de 2024 para instar a la derrota de la legislación sobre suicidio asistido por un médico en Maryland. Oramos por el compromiso de nuestros funcionarios electos de priorizar los cuidados paliativos y el apoyo a quienes corren mayor riesgo de suicidio asistido por un médico: aquellos con discapacidades, que se acercan al final de la vida o que luchan contra una enfermedad mental. Oramos a San Juan Pablo II, quien nos mostró el valor de la vida humana a través de su propia lucha y su fe.

Novena

COMIENZA LA NOVENA CON ESTA ORACIÓN TODOS LOS DÍAS

Dios misericordioso, oramos con agradecimiento y gratitud por el gran don espiritual de la vida y misión apostólica de San Juan Pablo II.

Por su intercesión celestial pedimos la derrota del proyecto de ley de suicidio asistido por un médico y que el valor infinito de cada persona humana se mantenga mediante una inversión adecuada en cuidados paliativos.

Concédenos también que crezcamos en el amor por Ti y proclamemos con valentía el amor de Jesucristo a todas las personas. Por Cristo, Nuestro Señor. Amén.

CITA/REFLEXIÓN DIARIA:

Lea la cita o reflexión del día (en la página siguiente)

CONCLUYE LA NOVENA CADA DÍA CON ESTAS ORACIONES

Padre Nuestro

Padre Nuestro, que estás en cielo, santificado sea Tu nombre.
Venga a nosotros tu Reino.
Hágase Señor tu Voluntad, así en la Tierra como en el Cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro Pan de cada día, y perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación, y líbranos de todo mal. Amén.

Ave María

Dios te salve María, llena eres de Gracia, el Señor es contigo.
Bendita eres entre todas las mujeres, y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre, Jesús.
Santa María, Madre de Dios, ruega Señora por nosotros los pecadores ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte. Amén.

Gloria

Gloria al Padre, y al Hijo, y al Espíritu Santo.
Como era en un principio, ahora y siempre, y por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.



ama la vida, aprecia la vida, defiende la vida

Novena a San Juan Pablo II | Día Uno

Toda vida tiene un “valor inestimable”, incluso “los más débiles y vulnerables, los enfermos, los ancianos, los no nacidos y los pobres, son obras maestras de la creación de Dios, hechas a su propia imagen, destinadas a vivir para siempre y merecedoras de la mayor reverencia y respeto”.

Papa Francisco, 28 de julio de 2013

Novena Día Dos

“Ni puede tener bases sólidas una sociedad que —mientras afirma valores como la dignidad de la persona, la justicia y la paz— se contradice radicalmente aceptando o tolerando las formas más diversas de desprecio y violación de la vida humana sobre todo si es débil y marginada. Sólo el respeto de la vida puede fundamentar y garantizar los bienes más preciosos y necesarios de la sociedad, como la democracia y la paz”.

Evangelium Vitae, 101

Novena Día Tres

“Una sociedad será juzgada en función de cómo trata a sus miembros más débiles; y entre los más vulnerables seguramente se encuentran los no nacidos y los moribundos”.

San Juan Pablo II, 5 de mayo de 2000

Novena Día Cuatro

“Respetar la dignidad de las personas que están muriendo debe implicar respetar sus vidas, porque sin vida no hay dignidad”.

Cherishing Life, Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Inglaterra y Gales, 2004

Novena Día Cinco

“Las leyes que, como el aborto y la eutanasia, legitiman la eliminación directa de seres humanos inocentes están en total e insuperable contradicción con el derecho inviolable a la vida inherente a todos los hombres, y niegan, por tanto, la igualdad de todos ante la ley”.

Evangelium Vitae, 72

Novena Día Seis

“Como creyentes, no podemos menos de ver que el aborto, la eutanasia y el suicidio asistido son un terrible rechazo del don de la vida y del amor de Dios. Y como creyentes, no podemos menos de sentir el deber de dar a los enfermos y a los necesitados el calor de nuestro cariño y el apoyo que les ayudará siempre a abrazar la vida”.

San Juan Pablo II, 1999

Novena Día Siete

“La fragilidad, el dolor y la enfermedad son una dura prueba para todos...son un llamado a la paciencia, al padecer-con; no se puede ceder a la tentación funcionalista de aplicar soluciones rápidas y drásticas, movidos por una falsa compasión o por meros criterios de eficiencia y ahorro económico....La verdadera compasión no margina a nadie...ni mucho menos considera como algo bueno su desaparición”.

Papa Francisco, junio 2016

Novena Día Ocho

“Merecemos llegar a la vejez en una sociedad que ve nuestras preocupaciones y necesidades con compasión basada en el respeto y ofreciendo un apoyo genuino en nuestros últimos días. Las decisiones que tomamos juntos ahora decidirán si este es el tipo de sociedad solidaria que dejaremos a las generaciones futuras”.

Vivir dignamente cada día, Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, 2011

Novena Día Nueve

“No se cansen de hablar con firmeza en defensa de la vida desde su concepción y no se permitan disuadir del compromiso de defender con valiente determinación la dignidad de toda persona humana. Cristo está con ustedes: ¡no teman!”

San Juan Pablo II, 2001

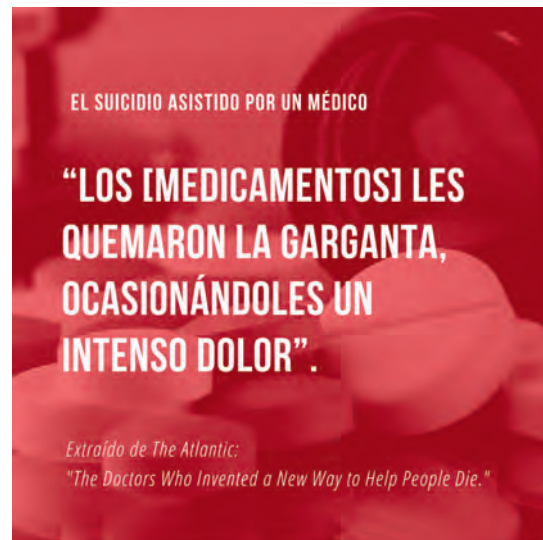
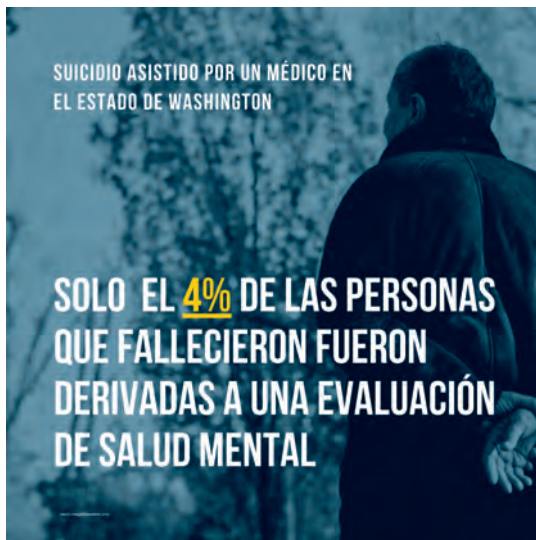
PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

GRAPHICS

DOWNLOAD: WWW.MDCATHOLIC.ORG/PAS



DESCARGAR IMÁGENES: WWW.MDCATHOLIC.ORG/PAS



Compassionate care. Not suicide.

Our friends and family matter to us. That's why it's so hard to understand how some lawmakers in Maryland are advocating our state legalize — even encourage — suicide for those we love.



Say NO to physician assisted suicide in Maryland.



Violates medical ethics to save lives and do no harm.

The **major medical associations oppose** physician assisted suicide. It's contrary to medical ethics codes.



No accountability for lethal, addictive drugs.

Lethal drugs are not monitored. A large number of prescriptions go unused¹, leaving cardiotoxic agents, analgesics, sedatives and hypnotics to fall into the hands of teens or prescription drug dealers.



Sends the wrong message that suicide is ok.

State leaders try to prevent suicide² — unless it is physician assisted suicide for the elderly or ill, including people who with a mental illness. **That's confusing and wrong.**



Lacks real safeguards to protect people.

Where it's legal, safeguards like **waiting periods are being shortened or waived.**³ Reporting is limited and people are dying with no doctor present over hours or days via lethal drug cocktails.



Makes people feel like a burden.

About half of those dying by assisted suicide **didn't want to be a "burden"** on their families or caregivers.⁴ Individuals report pressure to die via physician assisted suicide vs. getting treatment for cancer, mental health needs, dementia, or even because they were homeless or suicidal.



Leaves vulnerable people at risk.

Disability groups are fighting physician assisted suicide because it says their lives are not worth living. **Just 4%** of individuals who died from physician assisted suicide in Washington state **were referred for a mental health evaluation** before being prescribed lethal drugs. Now **no mental health evaluation is required.**⁵ Drugs have even been prescribed for eating disorders.⁶

¹Oregon Death with Dignity Act 2023 Data Summary; California End of Life Option Act 2022 Data Report; ²health.maryland.gov/bha/suicideprevention; ³Calif. Dept. of Public Health (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/pages/end-of-life-option-act-.aspx>); ⁴Oregon Death with Dignity Act 2023 Data Summary; ⁵Washington State Department of Health, Death with Dignity Act Report 2023; ⁶<https://bit.ly/coloradosun03142022>

MARYLAND

AGAINST PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Maryland Catholic Conference (mdcatholic.org/pas) is a MAPAS member.

10 REASONS PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IS WRONG FOR MARYLAND

1 No mental health evaluation required

There is no requirement that a person receive a psychological evaluation before a life-ending prescription is written. A doctor untrained in mental health is not sufficient to evaluate state of mind.

2 No disposal plan for unused, addictive drugs

Some drugs being used in physician-assisted suicide (cardiotoxic agents, analgesics, sedatives/hypnotics) are highly addictive and can cause life-threatening withdrawal, coma or death. Introducing large amounts of these drugs — with no controls to collect unused pills — will strain public health and addiction treatment resources.

3 No counseling on how to use the drugs

Pharmacists aren't required to counsel a person on proper ingestion methods. One of the lethal cocktails is known to burn your throat and is hard to keep down. Even then, death may not come for hours or days.

4 No protection against insurance fraud

The bill mandates the cause of death be listed as natural causes, not the suicide drugs, bypassing industry standards. The bill also doesn't recognize a long-held "contestability period" policy of life insurers designed to protect against fraudulent policy purchases.

5 No safeguards against coercion

The bill requires two witnesses to be present for a person's request for suicide, but not at the time of the suicide itself. People may be coerced into ingesting these drugs, or another person may administer the drug. This leaves serious potential for abuse.

6 No way to accurately diagnose life expectancy

Individuals can request physician-assisted suicide if diagnosed with a terminal illness and given six months or less to live. But, medical prognoses are based on oft-incorrect averages, which people frequently outlive.

7 No safeguards for the disabled

Leading disability rights groups recognize the many dangers the bill poses to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as falling prey to undue influence from doctors or family members. This results in a lack of true informed consent.

8 No family notification required

The prescribing physician must "recommend" that a person inform family members of his or her intention - but nothing in the law requires notification.

9 No ID required to pick up lethal drugs

The lethal drugs are picked up at a local pharmacy. Maryland law doesn't require people to show ID at the time of pick-up, so virtually anyone can acquire these deadly drugs.

10 No requirement for medical supervision

Typically, no doctor, nurse, or independently licensed aid worker is present when a person ingests the lethal dose. If something goes wrong, you are on your own to deal with any physical or emotional complications.

MARYLAND

AGAINST PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

WARNING: PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IS DEADLY

We are disability advocates, elder abuse lawyers, members of the medical community, patient advocates and faith-based organizations. We are the Maryland Against Physician Assisted Suicide coalition. Join us. **MCC is a MAPAS member: mdcatholic.org/pas**



MARYLAND
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PUT FAITH INTO ACTION

ADVOCACY THAT WORKS.



EDUCATION, CHILDREN & FAMILIES



RESPECT FOR LIFE



SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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PON LA FE EN ACCIÓN

DEFENSA QUE FUNCIONA.



EDUCACIÓN, NIÑOS Y FAMILIAS



RESPECTO POR LA VIDA



JUSTICIA SOCIAL Y ECONÓMICA

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La Conferencia Católica de Maryland es la voz oficial de políticas públicas de la Iglesia Católica en Maryland. mdcatholic.org/joincan

