

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

I am extremely disturbed to hear that the New York State Legislature has passed the Medical Aid in Dying Bill A.136/S.138 that would make Assisted Suicide legal in New York State. **I am opposed to this bill and appeal to you to VETO it when it reaches your desk!**

As I have learned about the terms of this bill, I am horrified, not only by the lack of loving compassion this shows to the terminally ill, but as a culture that lives in neighborhoods, towns, and cities, all New Yorkers will be negatively impacted by this law. There are many terms that are alarming, but these two should be enough to convince you to VETO it.

- **Drugs** – Our communities are already suffering from a drug crisis. In addition to illegal drugs that plague our streets, the opioid addictions and deaths are heartbreaking. We know that the New York bill is based on the Oregon law and therefore we can expect to see the same results as reported from the Oregon Health Authority. They report that **since 1997, when the law was enacted, 4881 lethal drugs were distributed and 1610 were unaccounted for – 33%! We do not want lethal drugs loose in our communities, unmonitored and potentially sold to or consumed by unsuspecting family, neighbors, and friends. Please VETO this bill.**
- **Suicide is Always Tragic** - Current suicide rates are already staggering. Ten years ago, it was rare to know someone who killed themselves. Now it is rarer not to. Mothers, fathers, children, siblings, friends, students, and patients are increasingly forced to mourn the tragic death of their child, parent, sister or brother, friend, or doctor. The pain increases exponentially when the first suicide entices a related member to kill themselves. This is all too common, since suicide is a contagion. These bereaved New Yorkers have a more challenging path of grief than when loved ones die naturally. **Governor, you have been trying to fight the rising suicide epidemic in New York. You are not credible to New Yorkers if you say that suicide is tragic for some, but legal and acceptable for others. Please VETO this bill.**

**Governor Hochul – Please VETO the Medical Aid in Dying Act
A.136/S.138**

Name/ Signature/ Print

Date

Address