

# Physician-Assisted Suicide

## What is at stake?

In November 2014, the NJ Assembly passed A2270, the so-called “Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill” Act (previously called the “Death with Dignity Act”). Now that the bill passed the Assembly, it will be referred to the State Senate. The Senate bill number is S382. Modeled after similar state laws in Oregon and Washington, this legislation would allow mentally competent, terminally-ill adult state residents to supposedly ‘voluntarily’ request and receive a prescription medication to cause their death.

### New Jersey “Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill” Act A2270/S382

Would give a patient diagnosed with a terminal illness and given a prognosis of less than six months to live, the ability to request a lethal prescription to end his/her life. If passed physician-assisted suicide would become legal under New Jersey law.

*Laws like these are Dangerous!*

## Suicide is always a tragedy

### 6 Reasons to Oppose A2270/S382

- ▶ A 6-month prognosis for a terminal illness is extremely difficult to predict.
- ▶ There is no requirement for a patient to consult a psychiatrist before receiving the prescription to commit suicide, only if appropriate. Many terminally ill patients are clinically depressed.
- ▶ There is no requirement for the patient to consult a palliative care or hospice expert, it is only recommended.
- ▶ No physician is required to be present when the patient takes the lethal prescription.
- ▶ The physician is required to sign the patient’s death certificate, indicating the underlying illness as the cause of death, not the lethal prescription.
- ▶ We should be supporting improved hospice and palliative care state-wide, not legal suicide.

**Contact your State Senator today and urge him/her to vote “No” on S382.**

If you don’t know who your state Senator is, you can call the Office of Legislative Services at 1-800-792-8630 or go to <https://votervoice.net/NJCC/> home and enter your zip code for contact information

You can send a prewritten email on S382 to your Senator by visiting the Faith in Action Center of the New Jersey Catholic Conference website, <https://votervoice.net/NJCC/Campaigns/37618/Respond>.

**For more information visit: [noassistedsuicidenj.org](http://noassistedsuicidenj.org) or [www.usccb.org/toliveeachday](http://www.usccb.org/toliveeachday)  
or call your local Diocesan Respect Life Office**