

Elder Law and Human Rights & Responsibilities Sections.

Aid in Dying. The Elder Law and the Human Rights and Responsibilities sections oppose legislation concerning “AAC Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients” unless additional safe guards are added, which would be that:

1. Care givers and heirs cannot be witness to the request by the patient;
2. Two independent physicians must sign off on the terminal nature of the illness;
3. Nothing in this Act shall limit the jurisdiction or authority of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities to exercise its statutory powers;
4. The two independent physicians referenced in #2 above must advise the patient of the availability of counseling with a psychologist, psychiatrist or licensed clinical social worker.

As written, this bill would allow a physician to prescribe medication at the request of a mentally competent patient who has a terminal illness that such patient may selfadminister to bring about his or her death. Approved by the House of Delegates, December 11, 2017; expires end of 2020 Legislative session.