



## St. Jude Catholic Church

Redmond, Washington

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Dear parishioners,

Unfortunately, there has been much bad legislation coming out of Olympia over the last few months, much of which has gotten little press. House Bill 1141 is particularly dangerous and immoral. It eliminates many of safeguards which were put in place by the voters when physician assisted suicide was legalized a few years ago. To be clear, physician assisted suicide is always immoral. Pope Francis has called physician assisted suicide a 'false compassion' and in a recent document reiterated the church's stance against it: "Euthanasia, therefore, is an intrinsically evil act, in every situation or circumstance," the document said. "Euthanasia is an act of homicide that no end can justify and that does not tolerate any form of complicity or active or passive collaboration."

Please see the email below with regard to the way this bill eliminates many safeguards against physician assisted suicide. I urge you today to contact the Senators on the list below to express your opposition this dangerous and immoral bill.

Let us pray too, for a great respect for human life at all its stages and that the hearts of many may be changed.

Many thanks!

Fr. Johnson

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### Email WA Senators Today

You have probably already heard about HB 1141, which is meant to expand access to assisted suicide in WA. We would like to share with you these words from our good friend Dr. Shane Macauley about the implications of this bill. **Please see the bottom of this email for information on contacting the senators on the Health & Long Care Senate Committee.**

"The bill (ESHB 1141) that would expand physician-assisted suicide will be voted on by a Washington State Senate committee **this Friday morning at 8 AM**. This vote is **the last realistic chance to stop the bill**, where the pro and con votes are somewhat close.

If you're unfamiliar with this, assisted suicide is a grisly practice in which physicians, in violation of the Hippocratic oath to "give no deadly medicine", prescribe fatal drugs to patients who have a supposedly terminal illness (doctors are often wrong about how long patients have to live).

As a reminder, **ESHB 1141 strips away the safeguards** (weak ones, but better than nothing) that the voters approved when they legalized assisted suicide at the ballot box, and puts more lives at risk. It would drastically cut the 15-day waiting period or "cooling off period" before giving the patient fatal drugs down to 72 hours or less (before antidepressant medication can even kick in for depressed people, and before they can have time for a second opinion to seek a medical cure, or get enrolled in hospice and get their pain and depression under control). It would allow 10,000 additional less highly trained practitioners like PAs and ARNPs to approve assisted suicide. It would allow untrained social workers rather than trained psychiatrists or psychologists to screen for depression among people requesting suicide; many studies have shown that people who request assisted suicide are often depressed but that, **with some time and counseling and antidepressant medication, they often overcome their depression and are no longer suicidal.**

If you have 5 minutes, could you **email as many of the senators on the below list as you have time for, asking them to vote against the bill?** A long email is not required, just a couple of lines saying that you don't support the removal of the safeguards in the assisted suicide law and that you would like them to vote against the bill.

The Senators who are on the committee are listed below. Please email both the Senators and their

- Shane Macaulay, MD

Sen. Annette Cleveland

**Chair** (D)

49th District

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360-786-7696

Sen. David Frockt

**Vice Chair** (D)

46th District

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360-786-7690

Sen. Ron Muzzall

(R) Republican Deputy Whip

10th District

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360-786-7618

Sen. Steve Conway

(D) Vice President Pro Tempore

29th District

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Sen. Jeff Holy

R

6th District

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Sen. Karen Keiser

(D) President Pro Tempore

33rd District

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Sen. Mike Padden

R

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360-786-7606 / 509-921-2460

Sen. Emily Randall

(D) Majority Whip

26th District

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Sen. Ann Rivers

(R) Republican Caucus Chair

18th District

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Sen. June Robinson

D

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Sen. Kevin Van De Wege

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Sen. Jeff Wilson

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