



ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs
**YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
Legislative Bill**

Bill # 21

Referred to Committee:
3

Authors: Grace Suchanyc and Sofia Salazar
Highland Falls Intermediate School

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Action on the Bill

Assembly

Senate

___ ☐ Passed

___ ☐ Passed

___ ☐ Defeated

___ ☐ Defeated

AN ACT TO: Establish physician assisted euthanization as legal in the State of New York.

**The People of the State of New York, represented in the
Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:**

Purpose

To make physician assisted euthanization legal in the State of New York; to all mentally competent adult terminally ill patients.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Physician assisted euthanization-the act of a board certified physician giving the prescription of the necessary drugs to a terminally ill patient to peacefully end their life

DNR-do not resuscitate order; in case of pulmonary heart failure or other cases involving a life or death result

Assisted Suicide- a more colloquial way of talking about physician assisted euthanization

Death with dignity- The act in which a terminally ill people can end their life within their own terms

Manslaughter-the crime of killing a human being without malice aforethought, or otherwise in circumstances not amounting to murder.

Euthanasia- meaning. A Greek word: A good or happy death: fast and painless and of one's choosing. A positive Act.

Section 2:

This bill pertains to the method of how a law legalizing physician assisted suicide would be enacted in the state of New York. The patient would have to be at least 25 years old, have 6 months to live or less, be a resident of the state of New York, be diagnosed and prognosed by at least 3 doctors, have a mental assessment by 3 board certified psychiatrists, puts in two formal written requests over the course of 15 days, notify next of kin of the prescription, the patient being informed of all possible alternatives, and signing an official document in front of at least two witnesses and two doctors.

Justification

As Stephen Hawking once said, "to keep someone alive against their wishes is the ultimate indignity" in the most recent Gallup Poll data, as of 2016, 68% of Americans along with the rhetoric of Stephen Hawking agree with physician assisted euthanization. The use of the word assisted suicide also does not seem to deter support. In February 2015, three terminally ill residents of New York launched a case against the The State of New York, saying that they had the right to die. three and the doctors and organizations who joined them in the lawsuit contend a mentally competent patient opting for a peaceful death is not suicide. The Manhattan woman was diagnosed four years ago with ALS, "which is paralyzing my entire body, piece by piece, while my emotional and intellectual capacities remain intact. Eventually, this disease will rob me of my ability to breathe. Yes, it is as horrible as it sounds," she told reporters from her wheelchair at a press conference in Midtown. Should it not be legal for a person in this amount of turmoil to be able to peacefully end their life surrounded by family and friends instead of fighting against illness that



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1 will result in death? 1/3 of the patients who even go through the tiresome process do not end up taking the
 2 aforementioned medication to end their lives.

3
 4 **Fiscal Implications**

5 It costs between 1,500 and 2,000 per person. With insurance, it would depend upon the insurance company though
 6 for how much the prescription would cost.

7
 8 **Effective Date**

9 One year after passage.