

No on Question 2

PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

- Question 2 is **poorly written, confusing and flawed**. It lacks safeguards, poses a safety risk, and omits critical rules for mental health counseling and treatment.
- Predicting the end of life within six months is difficult, and doctors know this kind of prognosis is just an educated guess. According to the AMA Journal, **upwards of 30% of lifespan forecasts are incorrect**.
- The **Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts Osteopathic Society OPPOSE physician-assisted suicide**, and call for providing comfort, compassion, and medications as necessary to alleviate pain and suffering at the end of life.
- **Assisted suicide is not a quality of life issue**. Current law gives every patient the right to refuse lifesaving treatment and to have adequate pain relief, a field that has made tremendous progress.
- Insurance companies and government-controlled health care will have a **financial incentive in recommending death** over true care.
- Doctor-prescribed suicide would **blur the line between natural death and medical manslaughter**.
- **Question 2 DOES NOT require patients requesting life-ending prescriptions to meet with a psychologist or psychiatrist**. 90% of individuals who attempt suicide suffer from underlying mental health issues.
- **Any doctor would be allowed to prescribe the deadly dose**, including dermatologists, podiatrists, and other physicians with areas of practice far removed from terminal illnesses. Doctor shopping is common in Oregon where assisted suicide is legal.
- The proposed safeguards against abuse are insufficient. Enforcement provisions, investigation authority, oversight, or data verification are not included in the act. **This is a recipe for elder abuse** as a required witness to consent could be a beneficiary or heir.
- **Legalization of Physician Assisted Suicide leads to an increase in overall suicide rates** (assisted suicides not included), as is the case in Oregon.
- Massachusetts Family Institute recognizes and **respects the inherent dignity of every human life from conception until natural death**.