



For Immediate Release

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DEATH WITH DIGNITY NATIONAL CENTER ENDORSES NEVADA'S PROPOSED PATIENT SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

Carson City, NV, March 16, 2015 — The Death with Dignity National Center is proud to support Senators David Parks and Ben Kieckhefer in proposing a Death with Dignity law to provide a peaceful and dignified death for those suffering from terminal illnesses. The Patient Self Determination Act says that mentally competent terminally ill adults who are within the final six months of their lives will be allowed to peacefully end their lives. The Act provides strict safeguards, protects against coercion, and allows terminally ill patients to spend their final days and moments at peace, surrounded by their family members and loved ones.

"Twenty years ago last November, Oregon voters were the first to approve the Death with Dignity law after which the proposed Nevada legislation is modeled. The Oregon Death with Dignity Act has been implemented carefully and has helped to spur a national conversation about end-of-life care that will continue this year in Carson City," said Peg Sandeen, Executive Director of the Death With Dignity National Center. "Our model legislation has been passed in Washington and Vermont, and those states are seeing the same careful implementation controlled by patients seeking to end their lives peacefully. This law has worked exactly as intended everywhere it has been adopted."

The numerous safeguards in this law have worked well in Oregon for 18 years, in Washington for 7, and in Vermont for two. There have been no reports of coercion, failure, or misdeeds in any of these states. Far more people ask their doctor about the law than actually use it, but many find comfort knowing the law is available if their symptoms cannot be controlled. The legislation drafted by Senators Parks and Kieckhefer provides peace of mind and control for the terminally ill while safeguarding against coercion for those who are vulnerable.

"The Death with Dignity National Center is pleased to have worked with Senators Parks and Kieckhefer to draft the proposed Nevada Patient Self-Determination Act. We will assist the Nevada efforts by providing our full political and strategic expertise from the successful campaigns in Oregon, Washington, and Vermont," said Sandeen. "The time is right for Nevada to adopt this law. The Silver State has long been a leader in protecting individual rights, and it is thanks to the leadership of Senators Parks and Kieckhefer that we are proud to join these efforts today."

About us: Death with Dignity National Center is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes Death with Dignity laws based on the Oregon model to provide an option for dying individuals and to stimulate nationwide improvements in end-of-life care. For more information, visit our website www.DeathwithDignity.org, or find us on Twitter @DeathwDignity and Facebook /DeathwithDignity.

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