



## NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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March 27, 2019

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

We write to you from personal experience and legislative duty to our most vulnerable residents. We are aware that you plan to sign the legislation (A1504) allowing terminally ill patients to seek life-ending drugs; however, we ask that you conditionally veto the bill to include additional safeguards.

Requiring psychological evaluation of patients that qualify for the terminal drugs ensures they are not committing suicide for emotional reasons, such as depression.

Physicians should be required to oversee the administration of the terminal drugs, rather than simply prescribing the drugs then wiping their hands of the patient's needs.

The ability of doctors and pharmacists to opt out of the requirements on the basis of moral or conscientious objections is a necessity to their rights.

Insurers must not be permitted to deny health coverage or emergency medical treatment to a patient because end-of-life narcotics have already been prescribed or been made available to a patient.

Lastly, hospice patients should have their facility consult with appropriate health care professionals and, upon agreement, be given the lethal dose in that facility.

We feel strongly that these requirements will help ensure the lives of vulnerable residents are valued and protected.

**Re: A-1504, the Medical Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act**  
**Page 2.**

We have both personally experienced a parent who has had a terminal illness one of whom outlived their physician's diagnosis by five full years. That is why we are passionate as legislators to protect the safety of residents and avoid placing them in harm's way.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Christopher DePhillips  
Assemblyman, 40th Legislative District



Serena DiMaso  
Assemblywoman, 13th Legislative District