The MN Alliance for Ethical Healthcare is a diverse coalition of doctors, nurses, advocates for persons with disabilities, medical ethicists, elder-care workers, faith-based organizations, and others committed to ensuring real care throughout life’s journey. We believe that we should always advance care, not hasten death. Government should prioritize proper treatment and management of pain, not find ways to help people kill themselves. Therefore, we oppose the legalization of assisted suicide (SF 1572/HF 1885).

- If assisted suicide is legalized, public health assistance programs and insurance companies will prefer to pay for lethal drugs that cost hundreds of dollars rather than pay for treatments costing thousands. Patients in California and Oregon have already been denied coverage for treatment and offered lethal drugs instead.
- Assisted suicide will increase disparities in healthcare by safeguarding the autonomy of the wealthy at the expense of everyone else, but particularly the poor, the disabled, and the vulnerable who will suffer from fewer opportunities to access treatment.
- The economics of assisted suicide will thus lead to society’s devaluing of persons with disabilities, the elderly, the poor, and those who don’t have proper care for mental illness.
- The lack of effective safeguards in proposed legislation will lead to more elder abuse—already a growing problem in Minnesota. There is no oversight and no witnesses are required once the lethal drugs leave the pharmacy.
- Oregon is proof that general public suicides will rise dramatically once assisted suicide is promoted as a good. Oregon’s suicide rate (not counting assisted suicide cases) is 41 percent higher than the national average.
- Assisted suicide is not necessary to relieve pain and suffering. There is a better option: palliative care.

The MN Alliance for Ethical Healthcare supports SF 112 and HF 345 to establish a Palliative Care Advisory Committee in Minnesota

What is Palliative Care? Palliative care is patient-centered and family-focused medical care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering caused by serious illness. It is a team approach to care that is highly supportive, can be extended alongside of curative treatment and is intended to alleviate suffering for individuals of any age and any stage.

Why is it needed? Individuals and caregivers facing serious illnesses are often unaware of new medical advances, available support systems and cost saving options accessible via palliative care. Research indicates that 92 percent of patients and caregivers desire the kind of integrated support palliative care provides once they understand it.¹

What will a Palliative Care Advisory Committee accomplish? The advisory committee would help lawmakers identify gaps in healthcare systems and workforce development. Ultimately, their work with legislators would extend quality palliative care options to more Minnesotans.

¹ According to consumer research commissioned collaboratively by the American Cancer Society, the American Cancer Society Cancer action Network, and the Center to Advance Palliative Care.
Alliance Partners

- American Academy of Medical Ethics
- American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)
- Benedictine Health System
- Catholic Health Association of Minnesota
- Center for Bioethics and Culture
- Christian Medical and Dental Association
- Curatio Apostolate of Catholic Healthcare Professionals
- Democrats for Life
- Diocese of Winona Guild of the Catholic Medical Association (Rochester)
- Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
- Gianna Homes
- Human Life Alliance
- Islamic Center of Minnesota
- Knights of Columbus Minnesota State Council
- Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Minnesota North District
- Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Minnesota South District
- Lutherans for Life
- Minnesota Catholic Conference
- Minnesota Family Council
- Minnesota Rural Health Association
- Muslim American Society
- National Council on Independent Living
- North Star Law & Policy Center
- Not Dead Yet
- Order of Malta
- Patients Rights Action Fund
- Prenatal Partners for Life
- Pro-life Healthcare Alliance
- Saint Paul and Minneapolis Guild of the Catholic Medical Association
- St. Raphael Guild of the Catholic Medical Association (Duluth)
- Students for Life
- Sacred Heart Mercy Health Care Center (Jackson)
- The Arc Minnesota
- The Lutheran Home Association
- University of Saint Thomas Prolife Center

Learn more at EthicalCareMN.org

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