

November 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

As a New Yorker, **I am writing respectfully and sincerely to ask you to veto S.138/A.136**, which would legalize physician-assisted suicide in New York.

Under the euphemism “medical aid-in-dying,” this legislation poses a grave threat to the most vulnerable among us - especially the elderly, people with disabilities, those facing serious illness, and people with historical inequalities in health care access. As we have seen in other states and countries, legalizing this practice opens the door to coercion, abuse, and the devaluation of human life. The American Medical Association recently reaffirmed its strong opposition to this practice.

There are many reasons to reject this perilous policy, but let me just focus on four:

1. The greatest resource of the State of New York is its people. All New Yorkers must know their lives are valued. Sanctioning suicide sends the wrong message, particularly to young people, who already are in the midst of an unprecedented mental health crisis. The New York State Health Department reports that suicide rates among New York State youth nearly doubled between 2007 and 2018, and suicide was the third leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds in 2022. Under your leadership, New York State has taken significant measures in suicide prevention, investing more than \$1 billion in mental health programs. However, if suicide is presented as a legitimate option for others, even with a doctor’s assistance, the more our children and others will see the taking their own life as a viable option.
2. States and countries with legalized physician-assisted suicide have shown that over time, the limits on euthanasia diminish. Already this legislation requires no waiting period; there is not even a requirement for a mental health evaluation and nothing to prevent doctor shopping. Disability-rights groups oppose this bill because they know it will create pressure on people to end their lives if they don't have full bodily autonomy.
3. Instead of this legislation, more attention and resources should be dedicated to palliative care and modern therapeutics to adequately manage pain, so those who are suffering will know pain can be alleviated, not just ended through death.
4. Doctors are dedicated to the profession of healing. Physician integrity and patient trust are essential to their practice; having doctors participate in suicide violates the integrity of the physician and undermines the patients’ trust in those who have given their lives to heal and to “do no harm.”

New Yorkers, especially our young people, need hope. Please, Governor Hochul, veto this bill. Let our State proclaim that every life has value, and that true dignity lies in respecting that life in all its stages.

Sincerely,