

Pastor Abimael Ayala
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Representative Stephan Hay
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Hay,

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose attempts to legalize assisted suicide in Massachusetts.

Recently, the Joint Committee on Public Health issued a favorable report to legislation that would legalize assisted suicide. The legalization of assisted suicide is already reprehensible, but to pass this bill out of committee in a time when thousands of COVID-19 victims are already dying in Massachusetts is unfathomable.

This bill targets the sick and especially the elderly and minority communities. These concerns are more manifested today due to the fact that loved ones cannot visit the sick and elderly.

This bill would exacerbate elderly abuse. Hospital care can be expensive; suicide is cheap. There are far more meaningful and humane end-of-life options to consider, especially palliative care and hospice services.

The 2,500-year-old Hippocratic Oath, sworn to by medical professionals, states: "I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment, but never with a view toward injury and wrongdoing. Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course." In addition, The American Medical Association and the American College of Physicians, the nation's two largest medical organizations, have recently and overwhelmingly re-affirmed opposition to the legalization of assisted suicide. This last statement was made in an open letter from 100 Massachusetts' physicians and healthcare professionals in opposition to legalizing assisted suicide.

Assisted Suicide advocates often tell heart-wrenching stories about intractable pain and prolonged, intense physical suffering as justification for intentionally ending one's life. However, in Oregon and Washington State, the most common concern cited by people who want to commit suicide is the loss of autonomy followed by being less able to engage in enjoyable activities and loss of dignity. Many feel like they have become a burden on their families.

Massachusetts' voters have already firmly rejected the legalization of assisted suicide in a statewide referendum held in 2012. Legalization of assisted suicide received its strongest opposition in the 2012 ballot initiative from minority and low-income communities.

Given the facts and the current crisis we face, we trust you to do the right thing and reject S 2745 and H 4782, legislation to legalize assisted suicide in Massachusetts.

Additional Concerns from the Minority Community:

- Already negatively impacted by inadequate health care systems, minority communities will be further disadvantaged by profit-based insurance companies and hospital systems which will find it economically rewarding to deny life-saving care and instead fund much cheaper lethal drugs to assist a patient's suicide.
- Patient struggles for adequate health care are already experienced most severely by minority communities. Assisted suicide will exponentially increase these struggles.
- Studies show that minorities in particular receive inferior care for cardiac conditions, diabetes and pain management. They are the sickest on organ transplant lists, and they are diagnosed with cancer at later stages than the rest of the population.
- Distributing lethal medications to individuals who are medically dependent, financially burdened and sometimes emotionally vulnerable, instead of providing access to needed palliative and life-saving care, is morally reprehensible.
- Allowing third parties to coerce or strongly encourage requests for lethal drugs and then have the ability to secure the drugs and potentially give them to the patient without consent and with no medical supervision places vulnerable populations at high risk.
- The timing of this legislation at a time when minority communities are most impacted by COVID-19 is particularly tone deaf and demeaning.

On behalf of our families and communities, we strongly urge the Massachusetts legislature to defeat all attempts to legalize assisted suicide in our State.

Sincerely,

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Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal
Fitchburg

Reverend Adan Ortiz
Assembly of Christian Churches
Framingham

Pastor Adrianna Cambara
Ministerio Abba Padre Inc
Waltham

Pastor Alicia Garcia
Spanish Christian Church A/G
Springfield

Pastor Belkis Dominguez
Ministerio de Restauración CSRD
Salem

Pastor Bill Almeyda
Centro de Adoracion Vida Nueva
Worcester

Pastor Blass Mercedes
Iglesia Evangelica Luz y Vida
Lynn

Pastor Carlos Ciprian
Iglesia Evangelica Luz y Vida
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Reverend Christopher Stamas
St. Spyridon Cathedral
Worcester

Pastor Daniel Teo
MERA V Church
Waltham

Pastor Daniel Torres
Calvary's Love Church
Springfield

Pastor Daniel Tesfaye
Emmanuel Disciples Church
Boston

Reverend Dieudonne Raymond
Holy Bible Baptist Church
Somerville

Pastor Eli Serrano
Restoration Worship Center
Springfield

Pastor Elise Almeyda
Centro de Adoracion Vida Nueva
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Reverend Eno Mondesir
Haitian Baptist Church of
Cambridge
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Pastor Erasmo R. Capellan, Jr
Iglesia Met. Libre Casa de
Bendicion
Springfield

Reverend Esteban Carrasco
House of Destiny Church
Southbridge

Pastor Fernando Oliveira
Catedral de Adoracao
Waltham

Pastor Gisete Mejias
Tabernaculo de Restauracion
East Freetown

Pastor Glauber Morare
Intl. Church of the Grace of God
Somerville

Pastor Godwin Agabus Nii-Lartey
Family Life Fellowship
Hyde Park

Pastor Gregory Javier
Ministry of Restoration
Salem

Pastor Guillermo Rodriguez
Vida Real Evangelical Center
Medford

Pastor Hector Santos
Restoration Worship Center
Springfield

Pastor Henry Garcia
Iglesia Tabernaculo de Gozo
Springfield

Pastor Ismael Carasquillo
Iglesia Pentecostal Misionera
Worcester

Pastor Jacqueline Vargas
Iglesia Tabernaculo de Gozo
Springfield

Presiding Bishop James Collins
Eagle Heights Church
Revere

Pastor Jefte Santos
M.A. Jesucristo es el Senor
Lawrence

Pastor Jeremias Rosa	Pastor Jermy Santiago	Pastor Joao Costa
Iglesia Apostoles y Profetas	Ministerio de Restauración CSRD	Comunidade Batista Shalom Int.
Boston	Salem	Somerville
Pastor John Katende	Pastor John Amaral	Network Coord. Jonathan Friz
Global Evangelical Church	New Destiny Church Assembly	New England Alliance
Burlington	Seekonk	Deerfield
Pastor Jose Martinez	Pastor Jose M. Torres	Executive Director Josimar Salum
Resurrection Center	Centro de Restauracion Emanuel	Christian Fellowship of Boston
Springfield	Holyoke	Somerville
Pastor Juan Williams	Pastor Juan Barbosa	Pastor Julio Medrano
Iglesia de Dios de la Profecia	I.P. Casa de Oracion	Church Mahanaim
Lawrence	Canton	Haverhill
Pastor Karen Elliott	Pastor Karitina Aquino	Pastor Leonita Machado
Eagle & Dove M. - Judah's Roar	Ministerio de Restauración CSRD	Worcester Family Church
Gloucester	Salem	Worcester
Pastor Mageldi De La Roca	Pastor Manny Silva	Reverend Marcos Nogueira
Centro Cristiano De Adoracion	Evangelical Christian Fellowship	Christian Fellowship of Boston
Waltham	Fall River	Somerville
Pastor Maribel Rolon	Pastor Marisol Barbosa	Reverend Mark Rivera
Evangelical Hispanic Church	I.P. Casa de Oracion	Riverside Church
Peabody	Canton	Haverhill
Pastor Marsole Sampaio	Pastor Michell Plaud	Pastor Michelle Aviles
Family Connection Church	I.P. Casa de Misericordia	ICM Sin Fronteras
Framingham	Springfield	Springfield

Reverend Milagro Grullon	Pastor Moises Dominguez	Pastor Nathaniel Rivera
Community Christian Fellowship Lawrence	Ministerio de Restauración CSR Salem	C.C. de Restauracion y Adoracion Lowell
Pastor Nelson Santini	Pastor Peter Mosijchuk	Reverend Rady Roldan-Figueroa
Evangelical Hispanic Church Peabody	Bethesda Ukrainian Pentecostal West Springfield	Lawrence Evangelical Church Lawrence
Pastor Raffoul Najem	Pastor Raquel Gonzalez	Pastor Rebecca Teo
Community Christian Fellowship Lowell	Iglesia Vida del Reino Worcester	MERAV Church Waltham
Pastor Renzo Ventrice	Pastor Ricardo Hernandez	Reverend Robert Paiva
Christian Cathedral Springfield	Casa De Dios Puerta del Cielo Roxbury	Rivers of Living Water I.M. Marlborough
Pastor Roberto Miranda	Pastor Ruth Rubert	Reverend Sergio Perez
Congregation Lion of Judah Boston	Bethel Presbyterian Church Marlborough	Harvest Ministries of N.E. Weymouth
Pastor Stephen Kakaira	Pastor Susan Santos	Pastor Suzette Sajjabi
New Life International Christian Center Stoneham	M.A. Jesucristo es el Senor Lawrence	New Life Int. Christian Center Stoneham
Pastor Terika Smith	Pastor Vasiliy Tokarev	Pastor Ventura Loreda
Flowing Rivers Lawrence	Legacy Church Chicopee	Spanish Free Methodist Church Salem
Reverend Victor Jarvis	Reverend Victor Parra	Pastor Wanda Pagan-Rivera
Ebenezer Christian Church Lawrence	Spanish Free Methodist Church Salem	Ministerio de Restauración CSR Salem

Pastor Whistler Santos

Christian Methodist Church

Lawrence

Pastor Wilson Ramos

Charis Centro de Adoración

Holyoke

Pastor Workneh Tesfaye

Emmanuel Disciples Church

Boston