



**POSITION STATEMENT
MONTANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
ON
PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 21, 2009**

The Montana Medical Association does not condone the deliberate act of precipitating the death of a patient. This does not imply, however, that a physician using his or her best judgment should not allow a patient to die with dignity.

MMA supports and advocates for compassionate and competent palliative care at the end of life and, furthermore, acknowledges that medical efforts to eliminate irreversible and extreme pain and suffering at the end of life are an appropriate medical response that may result in hastening the patient's death. MMA acknowledges the patient's legitimate right to autonomy at the end of life, but does not accept the proposition that death with dignity may be achieved only through physician assisted suicide.

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