



CWA of California Update

July 13, 2005

Assisted Suicide Bill Dies

Authors abandon bill for this year due to lack of votes.

The authors of AB 654 tried to breathe new life into their bill to legalize physician-assisted suicide here, but that attempt has failed. The new bill, AB 651 created by the "gut and amend" tactic, has been abandoned for lack of votes before its first Senate committee hearing.

Co-author Assembly Member Patty Berg (D-Santa Rosa) said of her lack of support, "I thought it might be less political in the Senate than it was in the Assembly, but truth be known, it's political in both houses." Berg and Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys) decided to back down rather than lose on a floor vote.

The American Medication Association opposes physician-assisted suicide, stating in its ethical code, "Physician assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks."

Last week we asked you to share your opposition to this measure with your state senators and the governor. Clearly, the voices of the people have been heard.

Thank you for making a difference!

MARRIAGE UPDATE: AB 849, Assemblyman Leno's same-sex "marriage" bill, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee July 12. See our [2005 Targeted Bill list](#) for action items.

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