

# **NO** to I-1000 *Yes to Life!*

## **I-1000 would legalize assisted suicide:**

- I-1000 changes the moral stance against the taking of innocent human life.
- I-1000 promotes the belief that if a person feels as if they are a "burden," killing oneself should be considered.
- I-1000 suggests that the answer to pain, loneliness, or poor quality of life, is to kill oneself.

## **I-1000 is a dangerous initiative:**

- I-1000 places vulnerable people, such as the disabled, the poor and elderly, at risk for abuse.
- I-1000 does not require notification of spouses or family members in cases where someone requests suicide. Loved ones could be assisted in their suicide and you might never know it until after their death.
- I-1000 actually makes it easy for a depressed loved one to commit suicide. The initiative does not require a psychological evaluation of those requesting assisted suicide, even though depression is a normal reaction to receiving a terminal diagnosis.

### **YOUR FINANCIAL HELP IS NEEDED TO DEFEAT I-1000:**

*Your donation will help educate voters across the state, so please be generous!*

*In compliance with Washington State election law, you must include all information requested on the attached envelope.*

*You may mail your donation to the address on the envelope, or you may drop the envelope into the parish's regular collection.*

*September is "YES to Life" Month*

## I-1000 -- Legalizing Assisted Suicide: They Say, We Say

### They Say

I want to choose the way I die. I have been making my own choices all my life and I want to have control over the time and manner of my death.

### We Say

Requests for suicide and assisted suicide are often a cry for help by people who are afraid, alone, depressed, or marginalized. Desire for control at the end of life often masks the fear people have about the process of dying. These very real fears and concerns need to be addressed honestly and directly—and people need to know about the many valid end-of-life choices they already have. The truth is we never have absolute autonomy; our choices are always limited by circumstances, other people and law.

Not knowing exactly how we will die is truly difficult for many, but the answer isn't legalizing assisted suicide. Sadly, people can already choose to die by suicide. But legalizing assisted suicide opens the door to placing vulnerable people at risk. These people may feel pressured to consider assisted suicide because of societal or familial pressures, or inadequate health care coverage. Those who are ill need loving accompaniment and compassionate care—not a lethal prescription.

### They Say

I am afraid of pain and do not want to suffer. If I am going to die anyway, why not allow me to end my suffering and die when I choose.

### We Say

Pain is more manageable today than it has ever been. In almost all terminal cases, pain can be controlled and people can still function. Excellent *palliative care*, with its relief of physical symptoms and easing of psychosocial and spiritual suffering provides peace for patients, residents, families, and caregivers.

Ending a life denies loved ones the opportunity to show true compassion by sharing in the journey at the end of life. Helping individuals to kill themselves, even with the best intentions, makes true compassion impossible.

### They Say

It is embarrassing to me that my family and friends have to do everything for me. I want to keep my dignity. I draw the line at not being able to control my bodily functions.

### We Say

Life at every stage has suffering and frustrations, great and small. But our dignity as human beings is inherent in our nature. To end human life due to a loss of personal control – as painful or embarrassing as that can be – eliminates the sufferer rather than the suffering.

We are *human beings*, after all, not *human doings*. We are not simply a sum of our functional working parts, but members of a family and community who are uniquely beloved, gifted, and cherished. By courageously facing life's last journey, we can live with real dignity and die naturally and comfortably, while accepting the loving support of family and friends. And in welcoming their loving care in the here and now, we help them in their grief-to-come.

# NO to I-1000 *Yes to Life!*

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Sponsored by Coalition Against Assisted Suicide – PO Box 13288 – Olympia, WA 98508

*Yes to Life!*  
**NO to 1-1000 ON**

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