[Supporting California State Senate Bill 128 (Wolk, Moning) - End-of-Life Option Act]

Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill 128, the End-of Life Option Act, authored by Senators Lois Wolk and Bill Monning, which would expand end-of-life options in California.

WHEREAS, In 2000, California enacted the Uniform Healthcare Decisions Act, also known as the Health Care Decisions Law, which consolidated the state's previous advance directives and affirmed patients' right to self-determined care; and

WHEREAS, In January of 2015, Senators Lois Wolk and Bill Monning, introduced Senate Bill 128 (SB 128), the End-of-Life Option Act, which would expand the end of life options available to Californians in the final stages of life due to terminal illness; and

WHEREAS, Advances in science and technology have created medical interventions that often prolong the dying process and increase suffering; and

WHEREAS, "Aid in dying" describes a medical practice defined by established standards of care, which enables a mentally competent, terminally ill adult to obtain a prescription for medication, which the patient may choose to self-administer, in the face of unbearable suffering, and to advance the time of an approaching death; and

WHEREAS, Many find comfort and peace of mind in having access to options at the end of life, including aid in dying, even if they do not exercise those options; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Oregon was the first state to enact a Death with Dignity Act, allowing terminally-ill residents to end their lives through the voluntary, self-administration of lethal medication prescribed by physicians, and requiring the state to collect information and publish annual reports; and

WHEREAS, Oregon has nearly two decades of data that demonstrates the utility and
safety of the practice of upholding a patient’s right to self-determination; and

WHEREAS, Four additional states - Washington, Vermont, New Mexico, and Montana - have affirmed aid in dying practices through legislative and/or legal action; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-five legislatures, including the District of Columbia will have considered aid in dying measures in the 2015 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, Well-respected health and medical organizations support the passage of aid in dying laws, including the American Medical Women’s Association and the American Public Health Association; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco respects the diversity of perspectives on end of life decisions; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco recognizes that the choices a person makes at the end of life are inalienably grounded in that individuals’ life experiences; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco recognizes that the practice of aid in dying is a desirable medical choice for many terminally ill, mentally competent adults; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby supports California Senate Bill 128; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to communicate this resolution to San Francisco’s state legislators, urging them to support California Senate Bill 128.
File Number: 150629  Date Passed: June 16, 2015

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June 16, 2015 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Christensen, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/16/2015 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned
Mayor

6/26/15
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

6/26/15
Date