

**Memo to:** *Update reader*

**From:** Rita L. Marker

**IMPORTANT:** As this *Update* was being printed, there have been some major changes in proposed bills.

In **New Mexico**, the sponsors of the bill (HB 90 and the identical SB 153) found that they had gone too far too soon when they would have permitted prescribing suicide drugs by telemedicine. Additionally, they changed the definition of "terminal illness" from a disease or condition that is expected to result in death "within the foreseeable future" to one which is expected to result in death within six months.

**Maryland** now has two bills pending (HB 399 and SB 311). Virtually identical doctor-prescribed suicide bills have been introduced in past years. Proponents of prescribed suicide continue to put their bills out over and over again, hoping to wear down opposition.

There's no doubt that we will be seeing additional bills in other states as well as amendments to existing proposals in upcoming months. That's why it's so important to monitor what's happening by going to the PRC web site for the very latest information.

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**Between January 1994 and the end of January 2019, there were over 270 legislative proposals in more than 39 states and the District of Columbia.** Of those, doctors were given the power to prescribe lethal overdoses of drugs to patients in six states and the District of Columbia.

Yet, over and over again, bills in other jurisdictions were either defeated, tabled for the session, withdrawn by sponsors, or languished with no action taken. And that is only because people like you helped others know how dangerous such proposals are.

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Proponents of prescribed suicide are growing bolder in their attempts to broaden the reach of death on demand. For example, **what they once called "safeguards," they are now calling "barriers."** They are committed. They are dedicated. They are working tirelessly.

We must be even more committed, dedicated and hard-working. That is the only way we can protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our country.

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**Please consider having a "Words that Work" seminar in your area.** In the seminar, you'll learn about the ways to effectively discuss the issues with others. And you will have the tools you need to truly make a difference. For more information on "Words that Work" seminars, please call the Patients Rights Council (740-282-3810 or 800-958-5678).

Together, we can stop this threat to ourselves, our loved ones, and all vulnerable people. But we need to spread the truth about what's happening. **And you are an important part of that.** Please share this information with others. And please help the PRC spread this word as well – far and wide.

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Yes, I realize how important it is to oppose assisted suicide and I want to continue to support the work of the PRC.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift\* of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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