

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, existing law allows an adult to make health care decisions or appoint an attorney to make health care decisions for that individual in the event of incapacity; and

WHEREAS, Right-to-Die legislation, which authorizes an individual with a terminal illness to end their own life with lethal medication while protecting prescribing doctors from civil and criminal liability, has been enacted in Oregon, Washington, Montana, Vermont and New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, SB 128: End of Life Option Act (Wolk – Monning), which is modeled after Oregon’s Death with Dignity Act, would authorize a mentally competent adult who meets certain qualifications, including suffering from a terminal illness, to voluntarily request medication for the purpose of ending his or her life and provide civil and criminal immunity doctors who would evaluate and prescribe aid-to-dying medication under the terms of the law; and

WHEREAS, if approved, SB 128 would establish a criteria and series of required steps that a patient would have to take in order to request aid-to-dying medication, including seeking the approval of two doctors, who must confirm the individual’s mental competency and terminal diagnosis of having six or less months to live; and

WHEREAS, SB 128 specifies that the doctor’s role is to evaluate and prescribe while only the terminally-ill individual can administer their own aid-to-dying medication; and

WHEREAS, SB 128 would give the people of California the same rights as residents in other states that are legally permitted to request and administer their own aid-to-dying medication should they feel the need to end their own life rather than suffer through a terminal illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles, hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of SB 126: End of Life Option Act which sets the criteria by which individuals can obtain a prescription for lethal medication while protecting doctors from civil and criminal liability.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

ORIGINAL

JAN 23 2015