**To send a letter to your representatives easily and efficiently via e-mail,**

**go to** [**www.nyscatholic.org**](http://www.nyscatholic.org) **and click “Take Action!”**

New York State Senate

Legislative Office Building

Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator:

As your constituent I write to express my strong opposition to any legislation to legalize doctor-assisted suicide in New York State.

Allowing people to kill themselves, with the assistance of the medical community, devalues human life and sends mixed messages in our state's efforts to prevent and combat suicide, by suggesting suicide is an act filled with "dignity." It suggests that some people - the very sick, disabled, frail elderly - might be better off dead.

There is real potential for abuse in legalizing assisted suicide. Financial pressures from insurance companies and medical facilities, combined with pressures from those who might stand to gain from a patient's death, should raise alarms, especially in an environment of increasing abuse and neglect of people with disabilities and those who are aged.

Patients with a terminal diagnosis may outlive the medical expectation by months or even years. Some patients may experience a full recovery. Some patients may receive an inaccurate diagnosis. Making a life-or-death decision with these unknowns is unacceptable.

I urge you to focus on improving palliative care and hospice for the benefit of those who are terminally ill to ensure that they receive compassionate and comprehensive care and pain management. Please do not allow doctor-assisted suicide in our state. I look forward to hearing your position on this critical issue.

Sincerely,