



## Health and Human Services Committees

January 20, 2021

**RE: SB 0083 Life With Dignity Order Amendment**

Dear Committee Members:

The undersigned parties represent individuals and organizations with a common interest in addressing the implementation and access of the tools of advance care planning that allow individuals to document, with legal effect, their wishes for end-of-life care. The needs for these amendments have been amplified during the COVID era and the inability to execute certain requirements out of safety and distancing precautions. Many of these concerns extend beyond pandemic circumstances as people travel outside the state, appointed health care proxies (via an advance directive) are not always in the same geographic area, and create the need and expectation of performing requirements through virtual means and tele-connectivity.

SB0083 is important because it provides for practical solutions that allow individuals to document their choices for medical care to maximize their quality of life in their final days. This ensures Utahns and their caregivers are heard and receive the dignity they deserve throughout the full spectrum of their lives.

We are united in *respectfully requesting that you VOTE TO SUPPORT SB 0083.*

For your consideration:

- A POLST (Provider Order of Life Sustaining Treatment) form requires the signature of the patient or the designated health care proxy in person. Obtaining signatures in person is not always possible and the ability to get permission verbally or electronically is essential to complete the POLST form.
- Accessibility to the Life With Dignity Order known as a POLST in urgent situations can be either in paper or electronic form for the Electronic Medical (or Health) Record (EMR).
- Having a POLST form with uniform information allows Utahns to have their wishes honored when traveling outside of Utah.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the parties listed below,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Ence".

Rob Ence  
Executive Director



|                    |                                |                   |                               |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sally Aerts        | Citizen Advocate               | Kristy Russell    | State Alzheimer's Specialist  |
| Tracy Altman       | American Health Plans          | Carrie Schonlaw   | Five Co AOG/AAA               |
| Troy Andersen      | Assoc Prof Social Work         | Bonnie Shepherd   | Citizen Advocate              |
| Amy Anderson       | Sunshine Terrace Fndtn         | Briana Sisofo     | Gerontologist                 |
| Anne Asman         | Gerontologist, U Psychiatry    | Allie Spangler    | Utah Health Care Association  |
| James Brown        | Citizen Advocate               | Katherine Supiano | Assoc Prof, U Coll of Nursing |
| Cami Collett       | MD, Advocate                   | Mark Supiano      | MD, Prof Div of Geriatrics U  |
| David Cook         | Comagine Health                | Corinna Tanner    | PhD, Educator, Advocate       |
| Kristy Cottrell    | Davis Co Aging Services        | Collin Vesely     | Citizen Advocate              |
| Jeremy Cunningham  | Alzheimer's Association        | Clay Watson       | Home Health Provider          |
| Candice Daniel     | St. George VA CBOC             | Bob Wassom        | Citizen Advocate              |
| Ronnie Daniel      | Alzheimer's Association        | Troy Wilson       | Elder Law Attorney            |
| Heidi DeMarco      | Mountainland AOG - AAA         | Glenn Wright      | Mountainland AOG              |
| Jackie Eaton       | U Gerontology Program          | Jamie Zwerin      | Tooele Co Health & Aging      |
| Linda Edelman      | Assoc Prof U Coll of Nursing   |                   |                               |
| Janice Evans       | Citizen Advocate               |                   |                               |
| Tim Farrell        | MD, U School of Medicine       |                   |                               |
| Norman Foster      | MD, Geriatric Neurologist      |                   |                               |
| Joan Gallegos      | Citizen Advocate               |                   |                               |
| Liz Garcia-Leavitt | Citizen Advocate, LCSW         |                   |                               |
| Deb Hall           | Adult Programs, Utah Pride Ctr |                   |                               |
| Matt Hansen        | Homecare & Hospice Assoc Ut    |                   |                               |
| Andrew Jackson     | Mountainland AOG               |                   |                               |
| Gary Kelso         | Mission Health Services        |                   |                               |
| Paul Leggett       | Aging Services Management      |                   |                               |
| Michelle McOmber   | Utah Medical Association       |                   |                               |
| Linda Milne        | Citizen Advocate               |                   |                               |
| Christie North     | Citizen Advocate               |                   |                               |
| Alan Ormsby        | AARP Utah                      |                   |                               |
| Laura Polacheck    | Citizen Advocate               |                   |                               |
| Alan Pruhs         | Assoc for Ut Comm Health       |                   |                               |
| Deepthi Rajeev     | Comagine Health Utah           |                   |                               |
| Emily Redd         | HomespireHealth                |                   |                               |
| Andrew Riggle      | Disability Law Center          |                   |                               |