



## 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,

  
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		