



**LEGISLATION &
COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**
1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114
Tel: (916) 504-5800
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746
Fax: (916) 504-5807
www.disabilityrightsca.org

June 11, 2021

Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Health Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 380 (EGGMAN) as amended April 22, 2021 - OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **opposes SB 380**. This bill is scheduled for hearing before Assembly Health Committee on June 22, 2021.

From our advocacy work, we know that in medical settings the lives of people with disabilities are not always valued as highly as those of people without disabilities, which has led to the failure to offer or the denial of medical treatment, supports and services.

SB 380 removes critical protections for consumers and as a result great risks remain for people with disabilities.

- **15 day “cooling off” period removed**
A [Lancet study](#) found that “a patient’s will to live can fluctuate 30% in a 12-hour period and between 60-70% over 30 days.” Many people requesting assisted suicide have changed their minds—some living decades beyond their prognosis, having achieved a cure for the supposedly “terminal” illness.

- **Final attestation requirement removed**, wherein the patient affirms that they are voluntarily taking the lethal drugs at the time of ingestion.

This removal puts patient autonomy at risk, opening the door to abuse by greedy heirs or abusive caregivers. No reporting, no 3rd party witnesses at time of death make it so no one would ever know if the person changed their mind or if there was coercion.

Assisted suicide is not about choice when people with disabilities lack access to sufficient medical care. The COVID-19 Pandemic revealed long standing disparities in our health care delivery system as we witnessed disproportionate rates of infection and mortality in our aging and disability community as well as our Black and Latino communities. Now more than ever we should be focused on addressing inequities in our health care delivery system, not expanding access to assisted suicide.

Finally, in California, patients' reasons for resorting to assisted suicide are not reported to the public. It is premature and dangerous to make the End of Life Act permanent in the absence of data that would help us better understand the impact of assisted suicide on Californians. A bad day should not result in a death sentence.

For these reasons, DRC opposes this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sawait Seyoum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sawait Seyoum
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
Honorable Susan Eggman, California State Senate
Anna Billy, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Senator Eggman