

Resolution 26-303
Affirming the Prohibition of Physician-Assisted Death and Establishing License
Consequences for Florida Physicians Who Participate in Assisted Death in Any Jurisdiction
Emerald Coast Medical Association

1 Whereas, Medical assistance in dying (MAID) — also termed 'physician-assisted suicide' or
2 'physician-administered euthanasia' — fundamentally conflicts with the physician's role as healer
3 and the ethical traditions of the medical profession, including the foundational principle of primum
4 non nocere; and
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6 Whereas, Canada legalized MAID in 2016 and has undergone rapid and alarming expansion of
7 eligibility, resulting in 76,475 reported MAID deaths through 2024, including 16,499 deaths in 2024
8 alone — representing 5.1% of all deaths in Canada that year; and
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10 Whereas, Canada has extended MAID eligibility beyond terminal illness to include chronic non-
11 terminal conditions, and has further proposed — though currently delayed until 2027 — expansion
12 to persons whose sole underlying condition is a mental illness, including depression and anxiety
13 disorders; and
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15 Whereas, The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued a report
16 in April 2025 expressing extreme concern over Canada's MAID expansion and called on the
17 Canadian government to repeal it entirely, citing disproportionate impact on vulnerable
18 populations, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and those living in poverty;
19 and
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21 Whereas, Credible reports from Canada have documented cases in which patients sought MAID
22 primarily due to poverty, inadequate housing, and lack of social supports — demonstrating that
23 MAID inevitably becomes a proxy for failed social safety nets rather than a genuine expression of
24 autonomous choice; and
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26 Whereas, As of early 2026, fourteen U.S. jurisdictions have enacted medical aid-in-dying statutes,
27 including New York (signed February 2026) and Illinois (signed December 2025, effective
28 September 2026), demonstrating an accelerating national trend that directly implicates Florida-
29 licensed physicians who may travel to or hold licensure in permissive jurisdictions; and
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31 Whereas, Florida statute currently prohibits assisted suicide, and the Florida Medical Association
32 has previously affirmed its opposition to physician participation in assisted death; and
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34 Whereas, The Florida Board of Medicine has authority under Chapter 458, Florida Statutes, to
35 discipline a licensee for conduct occurring outside the state of Florida when such conduct would
36 constitute a violation of Florida law or the standards of practice governing Florida-licensed
37 physicians, and courts have consistently upheld the extraterritorial disciplinary authority of state
38 licensing boards where out-of-state conduct reflects on a licensee's fitness to practice; and
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40 Whereas, A Florida-licensed physician who performs MAID in a permissive jurisdiction is engaging
41 in conduct that would constitute a violation of Florida professional standards and, if performed in

Florida, would violate Florida's prohibition on assisted suicide — and such conduct is therefore properly subject to Florida Board of Medicine jurisdiction regardless of where it occurs; and

Whereas, The integrity of Florida's prohibition on assisted death requires that it apply to Florida licensees as a condition of licensure, not merely as a geographic boundary that can be circumvented by crossing a state line; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association reaffirm its unequivocal opposition to physician-assisted suicide and physician-administered euthanasia in all forms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FMA oppose any legislative or regulatory effort in Florida to legalize, permit, or create safe harbors for assisted death in any form; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FMA oppose any effort to define physician-assisted death as outside the legal definitions of suicide or homicide as a mechanism for circumventing Florida's existing prohibitions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FMA urge the American Medical Association to similarly affirm that physician participation in assisted death is incompatible with the ethical obligations of the medical profession.

Fiscal Note:

Description	Amount	Budget Narrative
35 Staff hours	\$5,600	Can be accomplished with current staff
Total	\$5,600	\$0 added to the operating budget

Fiscal notes are an estimate of the cost to implement a given Resolution. All Resolutions that are adopted by the House of Delegates will be referred to the FMA Committee on Finance and Appropriations for fiscal consideration.

Reference Committee: III – Legislation and Miscellaneous