

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8137

To provide for an exception to the restrictions described in the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 with respect to certain States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN (for herself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Accountability, Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for an exception to the restrictions described in the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 with respect to certain States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Patient Access to End
5 of Life Care Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Medical aid-in-dying is a medical practice in
2 which a mentally capable, terminally ill adult with
3 less than six months to live requests a prescription
4 from their qualified clinician for medication to bring
5 about a peaceful death to ingest at any point if their
6 suffering becomes unbearable.

7 (2) Medical aid-in-dying, an authorized medical
8 practice, is not euthanasia, mercy killing, or assisted
9 suicide.

10 (3) Oregon was the first jurisdiction to author-
11 ize medical aid-in-dying through a 1994 ballot initia-
12 tive. Oregon's Death With Dignity Act was officially
13 implemented in 1997.

14 (4) Subsequently, Congress passed the Assisted
15 Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 which, as
16 Federal lawmakers interpret it, prevents any Federal
17 money from being used to help terminally ill patients
18 who want medical aid-in-dying, such as veterans and
19 other vulnerable populations.

20 (5) Since then, 11 jurisdictions have adopted
21 medical aid-in-dying laws: California, Colorado, Dis-
22 trict of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Montana (via a
23 State Supreme Court ruling), New Jersey, New
24 Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington (1 in 5
25 residents of the United States).

1 **SEC. 3. EXCEPTION TO RESTRICTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE**
2 **ASSISTED SUICIDE FUNDING RESTRICTION**
3 **ACT OF 1997.**

4 Beginning January 1, 2025, in the case of a State
5 that permits medical aid-in-dying programs (in accordance
6 with the laws of such State), the restrictions described in
7 the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997
8 (Public Law 105–12) shall not apply to any information,
9 referrals, guidance, or medical care provided consistent
10 with such programs.

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