

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 503

5 By: Senators Bledsoe, E. Cheatham, J. Cooper, Flipppo, K. Hammer, J. Hendren, B. Johnson, Rapert, G.
6 Stubblefield, D. Wallace
7 By: Representative Bentley
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT CREATING THE OFFENSE OF PROMOTING A SUICIDE
11 ATTEMPT; CONCERNING THE OFFENSE OF PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED
12 SUICIDE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
13
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Subtitle

15 CREATING THE OFFENSE OF PROMOTING A
16 SUICIDE ATTEMPT; CONCERNING THE OFFENSE
17 OF PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-10-106 is amended to read as follows:
24 5-10-106. Physician-assisted suicide.

25 (a)(1) As used in this section, "physician-assisted suicide" means a
26 physician or health care provider participating in a medical procedure or
27 knowingly prescribing any drug, compound, or substance for the express
28 purpose of assisting a patient to intentionally end the patient's life.

29 (2) However, "physician-assisted suicide" does not apply to a
30 person participating in the execution of a person sentenced by a court to
31 death by lethal injection.

32 (b) It is unlawful for ~~any~~ a physician or ~~health-care~~ healthcare
33 provider to commit the offense of physician-assisted suicide by:

34 (1) Prescribing any drug, compound, or substance to a patient
35 with the express purpose of assisting the patient to intentionally end the
36 patient's life; or



1 (2) Assisting in any medical procedure for the express purpose
2 of assisting a patient to intentionally end the patient's life.

3 (c) ~~Upon conviction, any physician or health care provider violating~~
4 ~~subsection (b) of this section is guilty of Physician-assisted suicide is a~~
5 Class ~~G~~ B felony.

6 (d) ~~Nothing in this section prohibits~~ This section does not prohibit
7 a:

8 (1) Physician or ~~health care~~ healthcare provider from carrying
9 out an advanced directive or living will; or

10 (2) Physician from prescribing any drug, compound, or substance
11 for the specific purpose of pain relief.

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13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 10, is amended to add an
14 additional section to read as follows:

15 5-10-107. Promoting a suicide attempt.

16 (a) A person commits the offense of promoting a suicide attempt if the
17 person knowingly causes or aids another person to attempt suicide.

18 (b) Promoting a suicide attempt is a Class D felony.

19 (c) It is not an offense under this section if a physician or
20 healthcare provider:

21 (1) Carries out an advance directive or living will; or

22 (2) Prescribes any drug, compound, or substance for the specific
23 purpose of pain relief.

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