

RESOLUTION TOPIC: END OF LIFE OPTIONS

RESOLUTION TITLE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 128 (SB 128), THE END OF LIFE OPTION ACT

WHEREAS, the Morongo Democratic Party disagrees with the 2014 California Democratic Party (CDP) platform which limits end-of-life healthcare options to only: "...the right of any competent adult, suffering intractable pain to obtain the assistance of medical doctors in painlessly ending her or his own life;" Senators Monning and Wolk introduced SB 128, the End of Life Option Act, which provides that right of choices to all terminally ill patients with six-months or less to live; and

WHEREAS, the end of life rights guaranteeing individual liberty and personal privacy which have come to be known as end of life options which permits terminally ill, mentally capable adults to request and receive a prescription they may self-administered to hasten their own death, are founded upon the most basic human freedom of personal choice, because these rights ensure that a mentally competent terminally ill person has control over his or her end-of-life decisions; the death with dignity act in Oregon has eased pain and provided dignity, comfort and peace of mind to patients and their families since 1997, without evidence of patient coercion by families or by insurers to accept death, where a third of those who requested such a prescription never took them, but instead had the comfort of knowing they would not have to resort to violent means to end their suffering; and

WHEREAS, the CDP platform provides special considerations for the needs of people with disabilities, especially those institutions, and special care must be taken to protect their rights regardless of income level insurance coverage or lack of their receipt equal palliative care; the end of life options approach the subject of hastening one's death with the care and rigor it deserves, and is not designed to encourage physician- assisted suicide, but instead replaces the unspoken interaction between doctors and patients with a clear process that encourages open communication and serious deliberation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party stands in strong support of other efforts to ensure end of life options for all Californians, thereby providing mentally competent terminally ill adult Californians with legal protections while ensuring that any decision to hasten the impending death is made in consultation with families and doctors, with proper restraint and reflection, but ultimately free of coercion from any party, because the decision by a dying patient to hasten one's life should be a matter of individual choice not the governments.

Submitted by _____ and _____.

Approved by the Morongo Basin Democratic Party