

March 12, 2001

S 389. PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE UNLAWFUL. TO CREATE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE. Enacts new GS 14-17.2 making it a Class D felony for a physician, nurse, pharmacist, or other specified licensed health care professional to participate in a medical procedure or willfully prescribe any drug, compound, or substance for the express purpose of assisting a patient to intentionally end the patient's life. The following are not violations of the act: (1) execution of a person sentenced to death by lethal injection; (2) carrying out the provisions of an advance directive or living will; (3) withholding or withdrawing of a life sustaining procedure or compliance with a federal or state law authorizing withdrawal or refusal of medical treatments or procedures; (4) administering, prescribing, or dispensing medications or procedures as directed by a licensed health care professional for the purpose of alleviating another person's pain or discomfort if it is not done for the purpose of causing death or assisting in causing death for any reason but nonetheless increases the risk of death; (5) administering, prescribing, or dispensing medications or procedures to a patient diagnosed with a medical condition that includes an element of suicidal ideation if it is not done for the purpose of causing death or assisting in causing death for any reason but nonetheless increases the risk of death. Applies to offenses committed on or after Dec. 1, 2001.

Intro. by Forrester and Purcell.

Ref. to Judiciary I	GS 14
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