

Suggested Email to Legislators Regarding HB 1141

The following text is a sample form letter to Washington State Representatives for this bill. It is important to note that, yes, legislators do make tallies as to the number of comments they receive on any bill, so *letters really do work*.

For best results, they take special notice when, even though it is a form letter, people take the time to add their own opinions, stories, or other notes. They know that the issue affects their constituents personally and that they are not just doing it because their favorite action group told them to. Thus, if you use this sample, we suggest adding a personal touch to the letter.

The middle section with bullet points can be easily omitted and, of course, you should feel free to trim the email or add personal touches as you see fit.

On page 2 we have included the Rules Committee members in case you want to specifically email them individually or in bulk.

Sample Email Subject Line: “No” to HB 1141

Sample Email Body:

Dear Representative _____, (If you’re doing a bulk email, substitute “To Whom it May Concern,”)

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 1141.

This bill is dangerous, and would put the vulnerable populations of people who are elderly, ill, or depressed at great risk.

HB 1141 damages people’s ability to choose at the end of their lives. By waiving the existing 15-day waiting period for Assisted Suicide and instead making it a 72-hour waiting period – just 3 days, which can also be waived – HB 1141 makes it so any bad day could be someone’s last. No chance to reconsider. No choice once it’s made.

Even under the *current* “Death With Dignity Act,” there are serious concerns, including:

- **A lack of proper screening for depression** – in 2018, only 10 out of 267 applications for Assisted Suicide were referred to counseling
- Physicians who prescribe the lethal doses are **not legally mandated to have proper training in diagnosing depression**
- There is **no effective oversight** to prevent abuse of this system

The new bill makes this *much* worse in many ways, including:

- Replacing the 15-day wait time with a 3-day wait time
- Allowing those 3 days – just 72 hours – to be waived
- **Lowering qualifications** for those prescribing lethal drugs – even at the current level, they’re often not qualified to diagnose depression
- Removing the “controlled” classification on these drugs, **allowing lethal drugs to be shipped in the normal mail system.**

I know that you may not agree with me and many other Washington citizens who oppose Assisted Suicide, but I think that, at *minimum*, it is reasonable to say that such an irreversible choice should have mandatory time for consideration.

HB 1141 also removes health care oversight for those who prescribe the lethal doses, lowers the level of qualification for those writing the prescriptions, and allows lethal drugs to be sent through an already overtaxed mail service which suffers many stolen packages, thereby putting even greater numbers of people at risk. Whatever your personal views on Assisted Suicide, this is irresponsible!

Sincerely,
(Name)

Rules Committee Member Emails:

laurie.jenkins@leg.wa.gov
steve.bergquist@leg.wa.gov
kelly.chambers@leg.wa.gov
mike.chapman@leg.wa.gov
chris.corry@leg.wa.gov
lauren.davis@leg.wa.gov
noel.frame@leg.wa.gov
paul.harris@leg.wa.gov
joel.kretz@leg.wa.gov
john.lovick@leg.wa.gov
jacquelin.maycumber@leg.wa.gov
melanie.morgan@leg.wa.gov

lillian.ortiz-self@leg.wa.gov
tina.orwall@leg.wa.gov
tina.orwall@leg.wa.gov
marcus.riccelli@leg.wa.gov
skylar.rude@leg.wa.gov
larry.springer@leg.wa.gov
monica.stonier@leg.wa.gov
pat.sullivan@leg.wa.gov
robert.sutherland@leg.wa.gov
mike.volz@leg.wa.gov
jt.wilcox@leg.wa.gov
sharon.wylie@leg.wa.gov