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To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding S.74

I write is to clarify the question of medication used for hastening death under Act 39. Since the passage of the law, there have been different medications used for the process. Since the passage of our law, many other states have legalized Medical Aid in Dying and many more American's have accessed the process. This has particularly been true since June, 2016 when California's law (with a population over 39 million people) went into effect. Many more people have accessed Medical Aid in Dying and we have learned much from the experience. Medicine is a constantly evolving practice which requires ongoing quality improvement. Most importantly, we have learned the risk factors for prolonged dying, as well as how to effectively address these issues.

In February, 2020, the first ever national conference on Medical Aid in Dying occurred. I was fortunate to attend. Following this conference, the Academy of Medical Aid in Dying was formed. The academy has become a leader in the dissemination of information for patients and providers participating in Medical Aid in Dying. Data has been obtained from clinical experience to standardize the best possible medications for the process.

We now have solid evidence that the current formula used (DDMAPh) reliably offers patients complete and lasting anesthesia, and a peaceful death in a short time (85% of people die within 2 hours). Ongoing clinical data and continuous quality improvement may lead to future medication adjustments.

In Vermont, we have secure access to a compounding pharmacy which has several pharmacists committed to providing medications for patients now and into the future. They have been active members of patient care teams and are consistently able to help guide prescribing physicians in best medication protocol and practice as the evidence dictates.

I am confident in our ability to have willing pharmacists and the most up to date and effective formula available to the residents of Vermont seeking access to Medical Aid in Dying.

Yours truly,

Diana Barnard, MD

Resources/References: [About the Academy – American Clinicians Academy on Medical Aid in Dying \(acamaid.org\)](http://acamaid.org)