



MASSACHUSETTS
CITIZENS FOR LIFE

We are in a desperate battle to keep assisted suicide out of Massachusetts. In the next few weeks, legislative committees will start acting on bills before them, including the assisted suicide bills: H.2381 and S.1384. Our most effective weapon is YOU!

When constituents make a personal connection with their legislators and express their opposition to these bills, legislators listen.

Please contact your state representative and state senator today! You can send them an instant email using this link: <https://www.votervoice.net/PRAF/campaigns/76594/respond>.

Learn more about this dangerous legislation at a virtual presentation given by MCFL Board of Director's member, Dr. Mark J Rollo, which will be held on February 10th at 7 PM. The Zoom registration link can be found on our [website's event calendar](#).

We know that many people feel nervous and timid about asking to meet – even virtually - with a state representative or state senator. So, to reassure you that it's easier than you think, I wanted to share an email I received from an MCFL member last week. Here is her personal account of how she arranged a successful virtual meeting – *for the first time* - with her state senator. She writes: “It was much easier than I thought.

“For years I have wanted to do more to advance the pro-life cause. In particular, how could I make an impact on legislation especially since my legislators are pro-abortion? The answer came in the form of Myrna Flynn's email introducing a message from MCFL Director, Dr. Mark Rollo. Dr. Rollo urged readers to call legislators but not just to voice their convictions -- he urged us to ask for a meeting. So I did. I have called legislators many times but this time when I finished giving my reasons for opposing pending PAS (physician-assisted suicide) legislation, I said I wanted to meet with the senator.

“A couple of days later I received an email saying that my senator might not be available, but his chief of staff was. So I worked out a time to Zoom with Sen. Adam Hinds' chief of staff. I wanted to maximize my impact, so I emailed three friends, who were constituents of Sen. Hinds and were anti-PAS, and they agreed to participate.

“Dr. Rollo made it easy to prepare for the meeting. He provided a link to his 55-minute YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSlj5xN6848&t=9s>),

which comprehensively and clearly addresses relevant issues. He wrote, “Ten Reasons to Oppose PAS” (available at this

link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wk7RWHgeDfETb6INIdllgWXI2RBwCXmdJSZRw1zZWvg/mobilebasic>).

He suggested that ahead of the meeting we should decide who would talk about which of the reasons, and *he was willing to join the call*.

“I scheduled a rehearsal. We assigned the 10 reasons. We talked about the best way to convey the reasons and decided to use personal anecdotes. One of our participants is disabled and she practiced sharing two powerful personal experiences. We decided I would interview one participant who has ALS about his late-stage ALS. The third planned to talk about how PAS impacts the mentally ill since he had a close personal friend who was mentally ill.

“The day came. Homework helped us ask some relevant questions. In a previous call to his office, one of the staffers told me that initially, Sen Hinds had been against the legislation, but so many constituents had contacted him in favor of the legislation that Sen Hinds had reversed his stance. Now he is a co-sponsor. I asked, ‘What were his initial reasons for being opposed?’ His Chief said there needed to be more safeguards. We said we were glad that he understood there were major issues with the legislation but that adding safeguards wouldn't solve the problem. As we've seen in other states and countries where doctor-prescribed suicide is legalized, safeguards are always loosened, not tightened.

“We shared our anecdotes, and my friends and I covered our assigned reasons. Dr. Rollo offered expert testimony. After an hour, we exchanged pleasantries and thanked the Chief of Staff for his time. He said he thought the legislation would not come for a vote soon, since more work needed to be done on the bill. Then, in a friendly tone, he said if the legislation gets closer to the passage, he expected that we would contact him again. We wished each other ‘Merry Christmas.’

“The zoom session ended, and I thought: Victory! I didn't think we would change his mind in one hour. I was pleased that he heard what we were saying and that we established a friendly relationship with him. A short time later, I emailed a thank you message to him. “It wasn't that difficult or time-consuming to increase my level of engagement with legislators. What we said just might make a difference. “Where should I go from here? I will organize a similar session with my state representative.”

Please consider following this member's advice – step by step – because you CAN do this! Just think, you might even be the one to plant a seed of doubt in your representative's or senator's mind that is enough to have him or her vote “No” on assisted suicide. And that's all we need.

MCFL's team is willing to help people set up meetings with their elected officials, please email action@masscitizensforlife.org for assistance.

Thank you for all you do for LIFE. Best wishes,

Pat

Patricia D. Stewart

Executive Director

Massachusetts Citizens for Life · 529 Main St, Suite 205, Boston, MA 02129, United States
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