

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20288

A national effort is underway to create a "right" to assisted suicide. After successful efforts in Washington, Oregon and Montana, organizations are now targeting Idaho. According to a recent opinion from the Attorney General's office, Idaho does not currently have an effective and clear prohibition against physician assisted suicide, or "aid-in-dying". This legislation will supplement existing common law and statutory law by confirming that it is illegal to cause or assist in the suicide of another.

In 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court found in *Washington v. Glucksberg* that assisted suicide is not a fundamental right under the federal constitution. The court also acknowledged the states' authority to legislate in this area of law.

The proposed legislation is modeled after a Kentucky statute, which has been successfully in place since 1994.

Approximately 30 states have codified bans on "aid-in-dying" or "assisted suicide".

FISCAL NOTE

This bill has no fiscal impact on the general fund.

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S1070