

Dear Senator:

We are writing to respectfully urge you to co-sponsor S.3788, the Assisted Suicide Prevention Act of 2006, which Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) recently introduced, and request that you encourage a prompt markup and Senate floor vote on this important piece of legislation.

This legislation is a necessary and indispensable vehicle to prohibit the use of federally controlled substances for the purposes of assisted suicide or euthanasia following a ruling earlier this year by the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Gonzalez v Oregon*.

In *Gonzalez*, the Court held that it is not a violation of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) for a physician to dispense federally controlled substances for the purposes of assisted suicide or euthanasia; however, the Court also did state that Congress has the authority to establish a uniform national standard in this area.

S.3788 would amend the CSA and prohibit the prescription, distribution, or administration of a federally controlled substance for the purposes of assisted suicide or euthanasia. Establishing such a standard will allow physicians to provide the appropriate medicines to comfort those receiving end of life care while prohibiting the abuse of such medicines for the purposes of physicians killing their patients.

As you consider supporting this legislation, please reflect on these poignant and fitting words of Thomas Jefferson: “***The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the just and only legitimate object of good government.***”

The federal government has an obligation to protect the citizens of the United States by ensuring the use of these controlled substances is reserved for legitimate medical purposes, and ought not to tacitly support assisted suicide and euthanasia through the unregulated use of these substances.

This is an important public policy that will: protect the integrity of the medical profession, encourage the appropriate use of these federally controlled substances by physicians to treat physical or emotional pain or suffering, and most importantly, offer the most dignified care that the terminally ill deserve.

We urge you to support S.3788 and exercise your authority that has been reaffirmed by *Gonzalez* and codify the moral and ethical prohibitions against assisted suicide and euthanasia that have existed for thousands of years.

Thank you for your consideration and may God bless you.

Sincerely yours,