



# Committee Against Physician Assisted Suicide

[www.stopassistedsuicide.org](http://www.stopassistedsuicide.org)

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On November 6, 2012, Massachusetts residents will vote on a statewide ballot question – Question 2 – which would legalize physician assisted suicide.

This ballot question is poorly written, confusing and flawed – which is why concerned doctors, nurses, hospice workers, religious leaders and citizens have formed a committee to urge residents to vote **NO** on Election Day.

Question 2 is critically flawed. Here's why you should vote **NO** on election day:

- 1 A six-month prognosis for a terminal illness can be wildly inaccurate.
- 2 Question 2 does not require a patient to consult with a psychiatrist before receiving a prescription to commit suicide and many terminally ill patients have depression.
- 3 Question 2 does not require a consultation with a palliative care or hospice expert.
- 4 No physician is present when the patient takes the lethal prescription.
- 5 There is no requirement to notify family members.
- 6 We should be supporting improved hospice and palliative care statewide, not legal suicide.

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The Committee Against Physician Assisted Suicide is organizing a diverse, statewide coalition in opposition to Question 2. Visit [www.stopassistedsuicide.org](http://www.stopassistedsuicide.org) to learn more, sign the petition and make a donation to help raise the funds necessary to defeat Question 2.

## QUESTION 2-

Would give a patient who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness and given a prognosis of less than six months to live, the ability to request a lethal prescription to end his/her life. If passed on Election Day, physician assisted suicide would become legal under Massachusetts law. No additional legislative or other approvals would be necessary.

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