

1 suffering caused by terminal illness, that they sometimes turn to violent
2 means; and

3 WHEREAS, many find comfort and peace of mind in having access to
4 options at the end of life, including medical aid in dying, even if they do not
5 exercise those options; and

6 WHEREAS, a 2012 public opinion poll by Research and Polling found that 2
7 out of 3 New Mexico voters (65%) favor “allowing a mentally competent adult,
8 who is dying of a terminal disease, with no hope of recovery, the choice to
9 request and receive medication from their physician, which could bring about
10 their own death, if there were appropriate safeguards in place to protect
11 patients against abuse;” and

12 WHEREAS, five states have affirmatively authorized medical aid in dying
13 for residents, enabling terminally ill, mentally competent adults to receive a
14 prescription for life-ending medication from their health care provider; and

15 WHEREAS, aid in dying has been successfully implemented in Oregon,
16 where the quality of end-of-life care, pain management and the use of hospice
17 have all greatly improved; and

18 WHEREAS, eighteen years of transparent reporting and study of medical
19 aid-in-dying practice in Oregon demonstrates the utility and safety of the
20 practice, in upholding a patient’s right to self-determination; and

21 WHEREAS, the nearly two decades of implementation in Oregon data
22 shows “no evidence of heightened risk for the elderly, women, the uninsured,
23 people with low educational status, the poor, the physically disabled or
24 chronically ill, minors, people with psychiatric illnesses including depression,
25 or racial or ethnic minorities;” and

26 WHEREAS, many people find significant relief in the legal right and medical
27 means of control, in bringing an end to the suffering that may be caused by
28 their terminal illness, and only a very small minority (less than 1/2 of 1%) of
29 terminal patients request a prescription for medical aid in dying medications;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, many well-respected health and medical organizations,
32 including the American Public Health Association, the American Medical
33 Women’s Association, the American Medical Student Association, and the

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1 American Academy of Legal Medicine, recognize aid in dying as a legitimate,
2 necessary end-of-life option for eligible adults facing an imminent death from
3 a terminal illness; and

4 WHEREAS, Medical aid in dying is supported by the New Mexico Public
5 Health Association, the New Mexico Chapter of the National Association of
6 Social Workers, and the New Mexico Psychological Association; and

7 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque recognizes that the choices a person
8 makes at the end of life are inalienably grounded in that individual person’s
9 life experience and values; and

10 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque perceives that New Mexico statute on
11 “assisted suicide” does not encompass the rational judgment of a
12 psychologically healthy, terminally ill individual facing end-of-life suffering,
13 who asks their physician for the means to die in a humane and dignified
14 manner.

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
16 ALBUQUERQUE:

17 Section 1. That the City of Albuquerque respects the diversity of
18 perspectives on end-of-life decisions; and

19 Section 2. The City of Albuquerque supports equal protection within the
20 diversity of perspectives on end-of-life decisions; and

21 Section 3. The City of Albuquerque recognizes the practice of medical aid
22 in dying as a legitimate medical option for those terminally ill, mentally
23 competent adults who might choose to utilize it; and

24 Section 4. The City of Albuquerque urges the New Mexico State Legislature
25 to enact the End of Life Options Act, allowing for open and accessible medical
26 aid in dying for those terminally ill, mentally competent adults seeking control
27 over their own deaths; and

28 Section 5. That this resolution be delivered and presented to
29 representatives of the New Mexico State Legislature.

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