



Nuestra Salud

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January 9, 2019

Governor Lujan Grisham and members of the New Mexico Legislature,

This letter is in support of HB90, the Elizabeth Whitefield End of Life Options Act, that would provide terminally ill adults who are mentally competent an option to bring about a peaceful death should the pain and suffering from their illness become unbearable.

Nuestra Salud (translation: “our health”) was founded to address the void in culturally and linguistically sensitive programs that meet the health care needs of Hispanics around the issues of cancer, diabetes, asthma, tobacco control, and other chronic diseases. We work to increase collaboration, interdisciplinary and interagency partnerships with community-based organizations, higher education researchers, and state and city officials.

Nuestra Salud believes that expanding options for end of life care, to include medical aid in dying, can provide significant comfort for terminally ill individuals who are suffering and seek a death with dignity. We believe so strongly in the movement to expand end of life options that our Director Maria Ulloa-Otero serves on Compassion and Choices – a non-profit working to expand end of life options – National Hispanic Leadership Council. It is our hope that her leadership on a national level will bring change on this issue across all the states, and especially here at home in New Mexico.

If approved, New Mexico legislators must ensure that medical aid-in-dying is accessible to all eligible, terminally ill people, regardless of color. By working with Compassion & Choices, New Mexico can advance access to medical aid-in-dying through telehealth and Medicaid coverage as has been modeled in current authorized states.

It is time for the state of New Mexico to join the District of Columbia and seven other U.S. states that have authorized medical aid in dying and provide all New Mexicans equal access to this compassionate end of life option.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jorge L. Otero, President