



Pennsylvania  
MEDICAL SOCIETY®

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Dear Senator:

In the near future, you may be asked to vote on Senate Bill 3, legislation that we believe interferes with the relationship between physicians and their patients.

While we recognize that this measure by the very nature of the medical condition it addresses is both politically and emotionally charged, we are highly concerned that the bill sets a dangerous precedent by legislating specific treatment protocols. For that reason alone, we oppose Senate Bill 3 and respectfully ask that you do the same.

As physicians, we are dedicated to our professional oath to deliver the highest quality care possible and to provide that care in partnership with our patients.


Furthermore, we are particularly sensitive to protecting and preserving our confidential relationship with our patients who are most vulnerable when faced with serious illness or confronted with difficult medical decisions. Once in an examination room, patients must be able to fully exercise their right to openly discuss a particular diagnosis, prognosis, and possible treatment options to the exclusion of any outside influence.

Senate Bill 3, if approved, would significantly jeopardize the open dialogue within the physician/patient relationship -- a relationship that is the very foundation upon which modern medicine was built.

In addition, we believe this bill unfairly criminalizes physicians and would discourage those legally performing such procedures causing them to stop out of fear they may be wrongly penalized.

We urge you to join us in preserving the ability of patients and their physicians to make their own medical decisions and to thwart any effort that may erode that freedom.

Sincerely,

  
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President

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