

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY  
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1200

October 12, 2016

To: Church leaders and members in Colorado

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Assisted Suicide

Lawmakers and voters in some states, including Colorado, are seeking to legalize physician-assisted suicide. The Church maintains a firm belief in the sanctity of human life and opposes deliberately taking the life of a person even when the person may be suffering from an incurable condition or disease (see *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], 21.3.3). Life is a sacred gift and should be cherished even in difficult circumstances.

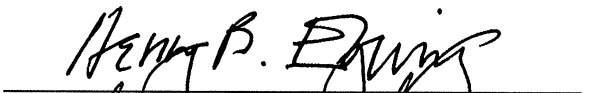
Physician-assisted suicide is permitted by law in some countries and a few states in the United States. Experience suggests that such legalization can endanger the vulnerable, erode trust in the medical profession, and cheapen human life and dignity. Moreover, the decision to end one's life carries a lasting impact far beyond the person whose life is ending.

While the Church opposes physician-assisted suicide, members should not feel obligated to extend mortal life through means that are unreasonable. Decisions in such cases are best made by family members after receiving wise and competent medical advice and seeking divine guidance through fasting and prayer (see *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], 21.3.8).

We urge Church members to let their voices be heard in opposition to measures that would legalize physician-assisted suicide.

Sincerely,

  
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Thomas S. Monson

  
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Henry B. Eyring

  
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Dieter F. Uchtdorf

The First Presidency

This letter is being distributed in English only. If it is needed in other languages, please contact the member of the Presidency of the Seventy who supervises the area. Area leaders can forward requests to the Priesthood and Family Department at ext. 2-2933.

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