

Joni's Writes Letter of Opposition of AB654

Thursday, April 07, 2005 - JAF Press Release



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<!-- AdvancedPublisher.com Content Manager Content -->AGOURA HILLS, April 6, 2005 – In opposition to the new physician assisted suicide bill AB654 that is going before the California Judiciary subcommittee on April 12th, Joni drafted a letter that was faxed to the offices of the committee. We wanted to share it with you.

We'd also like to encourage you to contact the committee members to express your opposition to physician assisted suicide before the hearing takes place. Those contacts are listed after Joni's letter.

Joni's letter appears in total:

April 5, 2005

Assemblyman Dave Jones, Chairman
Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814
916) 327-3338 fax

Dear Assemblyman Jones,

We are a California-based non profit organization which provides services to thousands of families affected by disability in our state and across the nation. We have three offices and several chapters, as well as hundreds of volunteers, here in California. Three of our 15 Family Retreats are located in our state, as well. In short, our organization represents a significant number of Californians with disabilities and their families.

As CEO and founder of the Joni and Friends International Disability Center, I am writing to oppose AB 654 which will be taken under consideration by the Judiciary subcommittee April 12th. Those of us in the disability community are greatly alarmed that a "Physician-Assisted Suicide Bill" is under consideration by our California state assembly. We join thousands of Californians affected by disability who are voicing opposition to this bill.

We believe that the potential for abuse far outweighs any advantages this bill might bring to a very small number of people who are terminally ill. We believe this bill, if it passes the state legislature, will endanger the lives of persons with significant disabilities for years to come. We do not want euthanasia legalized in our state. We do not want our physicians to become morally complicit in prescribing lethal drugs to terminally ill persons.

Please listen to the voice of our state's weakest and most vulnerable. I trust that sound reason and measure judgment will prevail as your Judiciary committee reviews this bill. Please vote against AB 654!

Yours sincerely,

Joni Eareckson Tada
The Joni and Friends International Disability Center
CEO and Founder

Here are the contacts:

Assembly Judiciary Committee

Chairman, Assemblyman Dave Jones
Capitol Office
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0009
916-319-2009
916-319-2109 fax

District Office
915 L St., Suite 110
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-324-4676
916-327-3338 fax

Assemblymember Sally Lieber
Capitol Office
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0022
916-319-2022
916-319-2122 fax

District Office
274 Castro St., Suite 202
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408-277-2084 fax

Assemblymember Noreen Evans
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916-319-2107 fax

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Assemblyman John Laird
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831-425-2570 fax

Assemblymember Cindy Montanez
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Mission Hills, CA 91345
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818-838-3931 fax

Assemblyman Lloyd Levine
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Sacramento, CA 94249-0040
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916-319-2140 fax

District Office
Van Nuys State Building
6150 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 300
Van Nuys, CA 91401
818-904-3840