

R-85-08: A resolution on the right to die

Whereas, the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Ohio desires to reduce the suffering endured by dying patients and their families in Ohio,

Resolved, that medical personnel who carry out the wish of dying patients to avoid having their dying prolonged by additional hopeless medical treatment should be protected by statute from fear of criminal, civil or license revocation proceedings for doing so, both when the patients' wishes are expressed currently and when they are expressed by means of living wills made by patients who are now too ill to make or communicate their current decisions;

Resolved further, that the same protection should be given by statute to medical personnel who, at the request of close family members, withhold or discontinue medical measures for patients who are judged by at least two physicians to be permanently unconscious.

Now therefore, we go on record as favoring enactment by the Ohio Legislature of Death with Dignity legislation, currently S.B. 72 and H.B. 220.