

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE DECLARING ITS SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 380 AS INTRODUCED ON FEBRUARY 10, 2021, AND AMENDED ON APRIL 22, 2021 (EGGMAN) ENTITLED *END OF LIFE*; WOULD KEEP AND IMPROVE CALIFORNIA'S END OF LIFE OPTION ACT WHICH INCLUDES AMENDMENTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE LAW, ESPECIALLY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

WHEREAS, the California End of Life Option Act (California Health and Safety Code § 443 et seq.) took effect on June 9, 2016; and

WHEREAS, in May 2018, a state trial court ruled that the law was unconstitutionally enacted; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2018, the law was reinstated by the 4th District Court of Appeals; the law was affirmed by the California State Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the End of Life Option Act allows an adult diagnosed with a terminal disease, who meets certain qualifications, to request aid-in-dying drugs from their attending physician; and

WHEREAS, since that time, nearly 2,000 terminally ill Californians with six months or less to live have exercised their legally available option to peacefully end their unbearable suffering; and

WHEREAS, too many suffering terminally ill Californians have been unable to access their end of life options. The bureaucratic and burdensome 10+step process has hampered or prevented many patients from accessing the law; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by Kaiser Permanente Southern California, one-third of terminally ill adults who sought to access the End of Life Option Act died

before completing the time-consuming process which includes a 15-day waiting period and can sometimes take months to complete; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed health disparities in access to care among different communities. The hurdles that make it difficult for dying people to use this compassionate law is magnified in communities of color, where patients often don't have access to the same resources and referral networks that can best inform them about their end of life options.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City Council of the City of Watsonville hereby declares its support and urges the passage of Senate Bill 380 (Eggman) entitled *End of Life* as first introduced on February 10, 2021, and amended on April 22, 2021, if enacted, will reduce the 15-day wait period to 48 hours, and if the attending physician determines a patient will die before the end of the wait period, the 48 hours will be waived. The bill adds or clarifies additional language, including eliminating the January 1, 2026, repeal clause.

2. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to Assembly Member Robert Rivas, Senator John Laird, and Governor Gavin Newsom of the State of California.
