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Senate Passes Legislation to Legalize Assisted Suicide in New Mexico

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Senate today passed legislation to legalize assisted suicide in New Mexico. Despite numerous concerns raised regarding potential abuses, Senate Democrats advanced House Bill 47 on a 24-17 vote.

“While I sympathize with those facing terminal illnesses and the end of life, I fundamentally disagree that suicide is a compassionate solution.” said Republican Leader, **Senator Greg Baca** (District 29-Bernalillo and Valencia). “In years past, the Legislature rejected this legislation with bipartisan opposition because of its flaws. The bill remains flawed and sadly, the unintended consequences may be fatal.”

“This legislation still lacks too many safeguards found in other states,” added local physician, **Senator Gregg Schmedes** (District 19-Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe, and Torrance). “It allows non-physicians to determine capacity and to prescribe life-ending medication, and nothing in the bill explicitly requires an in-person examination. I am extremely concerned that we are exposing ill and vulnerable New Mexicans to abusive coercion from predatory family members and profit-driven insurance companies. I urge the Governor to veto this legislation.”

House Bill 47 will now head to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for her consideration.

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