

MN ALLIANCE FOR ETHICAL HEALTHCARE 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Before starting a conversation with your candidate, identify who they are. You can look up who is running for State Senator and State Representative in your district by visiting the following links, which will redirect you to the Secretary of State's website:

Senate Candidates: <http://tinyurl.com/7tp6zcx>

Representative Candidates: <http://tinyurl.com/7tp6zcx>

These webpages will list registered contacts by district. If you're not sure what legislative district you're in, visit <http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/> and enter your zip code.

2. KNOW THE ISSUE

Go into a conversation with your candidates with a good understanding of why you are opposed to legalizing assisted suicide. More resources can be found at ethicalcaremn.org or contact info@ethicalcaremn.org with additional questions.

3. CONTACT YOUR CANDIDATES

After you feel comfortable with your understanding of the issue, contact your candidates to find out where they stand. There are 3 basic ways to communicate with the candidates in your district:

- In-person meetings
- Written letters or emails
- Telephone calls

Candidates are generally accessible, but there are some tactics you can use to increase your likelihood of being heard and getting a response.

1. In-person meetings

The best way to form good working relationships with your candidates. Key strategies for a successful in-person meeting:

- Be prepared
- Be respectful and kind
- Stay on topic
- Tell your story
- Send a thank you note

Candidates in your district are campaigning for the upcoming election. There are multiple ways that you can meet him or her, including at coffee klatches, social gatherings, parades or town halls that he or she might be hosting. Check your local newspaper or call their campaign to learn more about these opportunities. Many candidates will also let the people in their district

know about public appearances on social media, on their candidate campaign website, or through email list-serves.

2. Written letters or emails

Written letters and emails are a good way to communicate with your candidates if you cannot meet with them in person. Key success strategies for written letters and emails:

- Make your letter brief, concise and easy to read (type or print)
- Identify yourself and the reason you are contacting them
- Use terms they will understand, and avoid using abbreviations
- Ask for a reply

3. Telephone calls

An alternative to writing an email or a letter is calling your candidates. Telephone calls can be frustrating, because it is unlikely that you will reach your candidates directly. Do not be discouraged; they will reply when they can. However, if you cannot say what you want to say within one minute *or less*, write an email or letter instead.

Key strategies for successful telephone calls:

- Rehearse, make notes, and practice what you want to say
- Be prepared to leave a short message such as, “I am calling to talk to you about pending assisted suicide legislation (reference either HF2152 or SF2286) of importance to me in the upcoming election”
- *Don’t* insist on a call-back

4. SHARE YOUR RESULTS WITH US

Sharing how your candidates respond to your questions can help our coalition team more effectively advocate during the legislative session.

Send candidate responses to info@ethicalcaremn.org. Please include as much information as you can—and make sure to indicate from which candidate the responses are coming!

5. PROPOSED SCRIPT

I am a (potential) constituent and I oppose legalizing assisted suicide. Assisted suicide endangers the poor, the elderly, and the disabled, and represents a failure to truly offer compassionate alternatives. In the state with the world’s best healthcare, we can do better than embracing a proposal with so many risks. We should advance care, not hasten death. Do you support or oppose legalizing assisted suicide in Minnesota (reference either HF2152 or SF2286)?

Support Oppose

Comments:

QUESTIONS? EMAIL INFO@ETHICALCAREMN.ORG. THANK YOU!