

10 Things You Can Do to Help Change the Texas "Futile Care" Law

1. Tell people about the law. The "futile care" law is Texas' dirty little secret. Expose it. Tell everyone you know about it. Tell members of your church, your book club, your karate class, your dance class, your writing group, your family; tell your kids' teachers, soccer team; tell your babysitter, your hairdresser, your co-workers. Tell EVERYONE, every chance you get. (Even if you don't live in Texas, you can tell friends and family members who do live in Texas about the law)
2. Go to www.texaspatientrights.org to learn more about the law and what you can do about it.
3. Write and call your state legislators and ask them to support HB 1094 in the House and SB 439 in the Senate. These bills reform the law to *require hospitals to continue treatment until the patient is transferred*. (Go to www.texaspatientrights.org to learn who represents you and where to contact them.) Let lawmakers know you are paying attention to their votes on this issue.
4. Write about this issue to the editor of your local paper.
5. Post about this issue in online newsgroups or local internet bulletin boards.
6. Write about this issue on your blog or myspace page.
7. Write about the issue in an email and send it to ten friends and tell them to send it to ten friends.
8. If you have your own website, blog, or myspace page, link to the Texas Patient Rights website: www.texaspatientrights.org
9. Learn and defend the practical facts about the law, not the comforting myths.
Example:
Myth: Patients need not be euthanized if they're willing to move to another facility.
Fact: Once a patient has the "death by ethics committee" sentence passed, most facilities will not consider accepting the patient.
Fact: In very complex cases, it is difficult, if not impossible to find a qualified facility to accept the patient.
Fact: In cases of negligence or medical errors, medical providers have an incentive to thwart transfer of patients rather than to transfer them.
Note: You can learn more at the website: www.texaspatientrights.org
10. Copy this letter and send it to your friends, asking them to join the effort.