

Platform Ballot for Green Party of Michigan State Quarterly Meeting, Fall 2001

The Platform Committee was directed by the summer 2001 State Quarterly Meeting in Wyandotte to bring to this SQM a platform proposal in support of assisted suicide. Both of the following statements have been proposed to and discussed by the Platform Committee. The committee was not able to resolve the differences in these two approaches, and the voting within the committee was not conclusive. Therefore, both are presented to this meeting for an Instant Runoff vote.

Proposition A:

The GPMI believes that a person who is terminally ill should have a humane alternative to suffering through to a "natural" and painful end of life.

The patient should have the right to request assistance from a doctor to commit suicide, and the doctor should have the right to give that assistance. We do not favor extending this right to anybody other than the person who would die; neither to family members nor to the courts. This right would not apply to a person in a medical condition which makes it impossible to make or express a decision on this subject. It also would not apply to a person who is not terminally ill.

At the same time, we fear this right can be abused, particularly in a medical system controlled by insurance companies whose concern is not giving medical care but profiting from it. Safeguards to prevent suicide being forced on a terminally ill person may also be needed.

Proposition B:

The GPMI supports the right of a terminally ill individual to seek relief from intractable pain with pain medication in doses that may result in death from a licensed attending physician. The definition of terminal illness is defined as six months or less to live. Verification of a terminal diagnosis must be confirmed by a second qualified licensed physician. And a licensed psychologist must verify an individual is of a competent mind to make decisions for consumption of medication that may result in death. Dispensation of medication under these circumstances may occur under the same methods as allowable by current law.

Please vote by ranking the three possible results in order of preference by marking a (1) for your first choice and a (2) for your second choice. If there is no winner on the first ballot count, the least-supported alternative will be dropped, and the ballots on which that was the first choice will have their second choices counted. A 2/3 +1 super-majority is required to add a plank to the platform.

Proposition A _____ Proposition B _____ No plank on this subject _____

This vote is for Part II (Social Justice), Section 4 (Civil and Equal Rights), sub-section F (Assisted Suicide) of the Green Party of Michigan Platform.

If "No plank on this subject" wins, sub-section F will be removed and the subsequent sub-sections will be re-labeled.