

1 the patients' choices are honored,'" end of quote.

2 This organization, ASCO, has never before
3 told physicians how to practice. Very unusual for
4 them to come out and say this is what we must do. And
5 this directive occurred because of mounting outcry
6 from multiple sources criticizing the community, the
7 cancer community, about absent, ineffective or delayed
8 conversations terminal patients were receiving from
9 their doctors.

10 Such an abrupt policy change is a major event
11 and is related to physician-assisted dying because . .
12 ultimately, this is a patient's right issue. And
13 choice of physician-assisted dying within terminal
14 illness should be a viable choice.

15 Lastly, most physicians feel significant
16 dis-ease with the limited safeguards and possible risk
17 of criminal prosecution after the Baxter decision.

18 Physicians feel strongly that adherence to additional
19 safeguards to include those exempting populations at
20 risk, such as the disabled and elder abuse, are
21 imperative and that full implementation of SB 167 will
22 both select only those patients who are soon to die
23 for physician-assisted dying and provide immunity to
24 caregivers.

25 We ask this Committee to vote in favor of SB

Dr.
Stephen
Specter
testimony
below