



Care and Choice at the End of Life

March 17, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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RE: Compassion & Choices Opposes Confirmation of Judge Gorsuch to Supreme Court

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

On behalf of Compassion & Choices, we write to oppose the confirmation of Judge Neil Gorsuch as an Associate Justice to the United States Supreme Court.

Compassion & Choices is the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit organization committed to improving care and expanding choice at the end of life. Our vision is a society where people receive state-of-the-art care and a full range of choices for dying in comfort, dignity and control. We aim to ensure individuals understand the risks and rewards of all feasible treatment options, treatment decisions are fully respected, and that care reflects a person's values and priorities for life's final chapter.

As you are aware, Judge Gorsuch's 2006 book, *The Case Against Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia*, speaks at length about his opposition to medical aid in dying. Medical aid in dying, a medical practice wherein a terminally ill, mentally competent, adult can request medication from a physician they may self-administer if their suffering becomes too great, is now an explicitly authorized medical practice in six jurisdictions, California, Colorado, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia. 18% of the adult population in the United States now has access to this important and compassionate medical option.

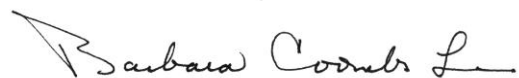
Judge Gorsuch makes it clear he doesn't believe laws that allow for such an option are capable of passing constitutional muster despite almost 20 years of data and thoughtful debate by voters and policy makers across the nation. He also is quite candid that, although the Supreme Court has shown deference to states in this matter, he does not believe the rational distinctions drawn by the states that allow terminally ill patients to access medical aid in dying are sufficient to withstand a court challenge.

Judge Gorsuch's views harken back to a view of the world where government knows best and is allowed to meddle in the most intimate moments of human life. Allowing confirmation of a justice who is willing to impose his own personal beliefs on terminally ill patients as they wrestle with the most profound healthcare decisions of their life would have dire consequences for generations to come.

On behalf of our 450,000 supporters, Compassion and Choices urges you to oppose Judge Gorsuch's confirmation.

Thank you for considering our views on this critical issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Cornub". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

cc: Senator Leahy