



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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MENDELSON STATEMENT ON CAPITOL HILL RESOLUTIONS BLOCKING DISTRICT'S DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT

WASHINGTON, DC – On Thursday, Oklahoma Senator James Lankford and Ohio Congressman Brad Wenstrup introduced resolutions to disapprove the DC Council's recently approved Death with Dignity Act of 2016 (DC Act 21-577). Council Chairman Mendelson, along with other members of the Council, and Mayor Muriel Bowser is strongly opposed to this proposed Congressional interference.

"This is not a federal issue and indeed is similar to the law of several other states. It has no impact on lawmakers on the Hill," Mendelson said. "This legislation solely affects residents of the District."

The Death with Dignity Act of 2016 establishes carefully crafted procedures and safeguards regarding the request for and dispensation of covered medications to qualified patients who are terminally ill and wish to die in a humane and dignified manner.

"When Congress passed the Home Rule charter, they closed the door on autonomy issues and whenever we come knocking, they do not answer the door," Mendelson said. "They have taken themselves out of the business of running our local – and very successful – government and they should not suddenly jump in to block legislation on no greater justification than personal belief."

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