

**Board Adopted Resolution
(October 2019)
(Affirmed; 2021 Annual Meeting)**

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

**Resolution 09.2019-12
(A-20)**

Introduced by: Benjamin German, MD, ISMS Member

Subject: Reaffirmation of the Most Recent Position Regarding Euthanasia
and Physician-Assisted Suicide

Referred to: Medical Legal Council

1 RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) reaffirm its position
2 which “opposes and declares as unethical physician participation in active euthanasia or
3 physician-aided suicide”; and be it further
4

5 RESOLVED, that the ISMS reaffirm its lengthier position statement on
6 euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide which was affirmed first in 1998, as follows:
7 “The role of the Physician The role of a physician is as a teacher and guardian of the
8 public health, in direct and indirect care of patients. This role includes the application of
9 proven scientific methods and tools to the healing of illness and injuries. Where the
10 patient cannot be made whole, the physician is to control the infirmity. Where control is
11 impossible, then the physician is charged with the responsibility to slow progress of
12 illness, if possible, and give whatever pain relief and emotional support and comfort
13 necessary to the patient and family. Where severe pain is present and the condition is
14 clearly terminal, adequate pain relief should be administered to ensure the patient’s
15 comfort. Assistance of any person in the termination of life, whether one’s own or
16 another’s, for whatever reason, even where drugs and tools of a physician are used, is
17 unethical and outside the role of the physician.”