

TITLE 42 - THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
CHAPTER 138 - ASSISTED SUICIDE FUNDING RESTRICTION

§ 14402. Restriction on use of Federal funds under health care programs

(a) Restriction on Federal funding of health care services

Subject to subsection (b) of this section, no funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of paying (directly or indirectly) for the provision of health care services may be used—

- (1) to provide any health care item or service furnished for the purpose of causing, or for the purpose of assisting in causing, the death of any individual, such as by assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing;
- (2) to pay (directly, through payment of Federal financial participation or other matching payment, or otherwise) for such an item or service, including payment of expenses relating to such an item or service; or
- (3) to pay (in whole or in part) for health benefit coverage that includes any coverage of such an item or service or of any expenses relating to such an item or service.

(b) Construction and treatment of certain services

Nothing in subsection (a) of this section, or in any other provision of this chapter (or in any amendment made by this chapter), shall be construed to apply to or to affect any limitation relating to—

- (1) the withholding or withdrawing of medical treatment or medical care;
- (2) the withholding or withdrawing of nutrition or hydration;
- (3) abortion; or
- (4) the use of an item, good, benefit, or service furnished for the purpose of alleviating pain or discomfort, even if such use may increase the risk of death, so long as such item, good, benefit, or service is not also furnished for the purpose of causing, or the purpose of assisting in causing, death, for any reason.

(c) Limitation on Federal facilities and employees

Subject to subsection (b) of this section, with respect to health care items and services furnished—

- (1) by or in a health care facility owned or operated by the Federal government, or
- (2) by any physician or other individual employed by the Federal government to provide health care services within the scope of the physician's or individual's employment,

no such item or service may be furnished for the purpose of causing, or for the purpose of assisting in causing, the death of any individual, such as by assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing.

(d) List of programs to which restrictions apply

(1) Federal health care funding programs

Subsection (a) of this section applies to funds appropriated under or to carry out the following:

(A) Medicare program

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.].

(B) Medicaid program

Title XIX of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.].

(C) Title XX social services block grant

Title XX of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.].

(D) Maternal and child health block grant program

Title V of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 701 et seq.].

(E) Public Health Service Act

The Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.].

(F) Indian Health Care Improvement Act

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act [25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.].

(G) Federal employees health benefits program

Chapter 89 of title 5.

(H) Military health care system (including Tricare and CHAMPUS programs)

Chapter 55 of title 10.

(I) Veterans medical care

Chapter 17 of title 38.

(J) Health services for Peace Corps volunteers

Section 2504 (e) of title 22.

(K) Medical services for Federal prisoners

Section 4005 (a) of title 18.

(2) Federal facilities and personnel

The provisions of subsection (c) of this section apply to facilities and personnel of the following:

(A) Military health care system

The Department of Defense operating under chapter 55 of title 10.

(B) Veterans medical care

The Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(C) Public Health Service

The Public Health Service.

(3) Nonexclusive list

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting the application of subsection (a) of this section to the programs specified in paragraph (1) or the application of subsection (c) of this section to the facilities and personnel specified in paragraph (2).

(Pub. L. 105–12, § 3, Apr. 30, 1997, 111 Stat. 23.)

References in Text

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 105–12, Apr. 30, 1997, 111 Stat. 23, known as the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 14401 of this title and Tables.

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(A)–(D), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620. Titles V, XVIII, XIX, and XX of the Act are classified generally to subchapters V (§ 701 et seq.), XVIII (§ 1395 et seq.), XIX (§ 1396 et seq.), and XX (§ 1397 et seq.), respectively, of chapter 7 of this title, respectively. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of this title and Tables.

The Public Health Service Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(E), is act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, 58 Stat. 682, which is classified generally to chapter 6A (§ 201 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 201 of this title and Tables.

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(F), is Pub. L. 94–437, Sept. 30, 1976, 90 Stat. 1400, which is classified principally to chapter 18 (§ 1601 et seq.) of Title 25, Indians. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of Title 25 and Tables.