



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

### *Championing Health Care & Opposing Assisted Suicide*

**Whereas**, Rev. Deacon Sal Alvarez, M.S.W., \Chair of the National LULAC Health Care Commission, strongly advocated for a single-payer healthcare system, strongly opposed physician-assisted suicide and for-profit hospitals, and championed the passage of the Affordable Care Act of 2012;

**Whereas**, physician-assisted suicide, like profit based hospital care, contributes to, if not causes, the stifling of fair access and the just measure of care for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations in medical systems;

**Whereas**, the struggle for adequate health care is experienced most acutely by the financially poor, the illiterate and poorly educated, the addicted or mentally ill, the non-English speaker or English language learner, the disabled and culturally diverse;

**Whereas**, the practice of distributing a pharmaceutical poison to the medically dependent and emotionally vulnerable, particularly where individuals and families are financially burdened by severe illness and not provided access to appropriate palliative care and caregiver supports, is unconscionable;

**Whereas**, physician-assisted suicide endangers disadvantaged, diverse populations often overwhelmed by institutional bias, for disproportionate tracking toward or imposition of grave outcomes, and has widespread implications in an historically racially oppressive society;

**Whereas**, physician-assisted suicide is widely opposed by communities that share LULAC's civil rights values, including disability rights advocates, senior citizen rights advocates, and the California and United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, among others;

**Whereas**, California Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation making physician-assisted suicide legal in the State of California on October 5, 2015 and further related legislation and budgeting has followed, with similar legislation introduced in states across the nation;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that LULAC National shall continue to champion just and quality healthcare, including palliative care and caregiver supports, for all Latinos and,

consistent with this, strongly opposes the legalization and practice of physician-assisted suicide.

Voted and approved at the 2016 National LULAC Convention - July 16, 2016.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.  
LULAC National President