

UMT

CAMPAIGN TO END **UNWANTED** MEDICAL TREATMENT

Statement of Purpose:

Patients with advanced illness and especially those at the end-of-life want and need access to the full range of medical care and treatment options. Patients, families and their advocates deserve and demand to have all the information necessary to make informed choices about their treatment preferences and to have preferences followed by healthcare professionals and institutions. This includes their legally protected choice to forego unwanted medical treatments.



Sadly, treatment preferences and choices, including those articulated in an advance directive, are all too often ignored or overridden. This harms patients and compromises their dignity. This practice must end.

The Campaign to End Unwanted Medical Treatment Partners Support:

- Honoring the dignity, values, and healthcare choices of every person at each stage of his or her illness.
- Ensuring that consumers are empowered and have access to the full range of well-coordinated medical care and treatment, including curative care, palliative care, and hospice care.
- Educating the public, patients, families, caregivers and providers about the rights of patients to determine how much and the types of treatments they receive ranging from all treatment options available -- to their right to refuse unwanted, unnecessary, costly, or life-prolonging treatment if they so choose.
- Improving the quality of discussions between patients and healthcare professionals about advanced and terminal illness and end-of-life decisions.
- Encouraging the use of and compliance with legal documents that articulate patients' care preferences, including advance directives.
- Creating economic incentives and reimbursement policies for health care providers that reward those who follow patients' expressed wishes and penalize those that do not.
- Creating a formal mechanism to record, report, and evaluate unwanted treatment.