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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

End-of-life bill should be rejected

Senate Bill 273 is bad for all Hoosiers, but especially for the aged and vulnerable. While this law's alleged intent is to create a right to take one's own life with assisted suicide, as it is written, it rather provides a safe harbor for physicians to kill their patients. This can be done without any psychological referral, notification of kin, or for any reason that the physician chooses to describe as "terminal." It even allows the doctor to proceed unchecked by dispensing the suicide drugs from his own office.

Pseudo-safeguards listed in the law are little more than pie-in-the-sky sentiments given that meaningful monitoring of this process would be nearly impossible as already demonstrated in other states. Without a doubt, this law would be giving absolute power to kill off difficult patients to a handful of physicians who already have violated their Hippocratic Oath. This is one of the many, many reasons why the Indiana State Medical Association resoundingly denounced the legalization of Physi-

cian Assisted Suicide at its annual convention last fall. In leading toward the marginalization and coercion of patients, and the bastardization of not only the law, but of the physician-patient relationship, Senate Bill No. 273 must be rejected.

Dr. Andrew J. Mullaly
Fort Wayne

Trump shouldn't build wall along Mexico border

Mexico, a friend, ally, neighbor, daily trading partner and host to millions of North American tourists, is being made to look like an enemy by President Trump. He says they "stole" jobs that were sent there by our CEOs. Mexico's president just cancelled a visit here. Trump is alienating someone who needs to be one of our absolutely closest working associates.

France spent its national budget decades ago building a fortified wall to keep Germany out prior to WWII. It was well-designed and constructed. So, Germany just went around it and flew over it. Is there anyone who believes that an unbelievably expensive wall on the U.S.-Mexico border will actually keep out bad guys — whatever

their country of origin? It appears that Mr. Trump has more issues with Mexico than with Russia's President Putin, whom Marco Rubio has termed a "war criminal." Re-think it, Mr. President.

Gary Davis
Plainfield

How will state pay for gun exemption?

It seems the Indiana House considers firearms and ammunition to be equivalent to the other necessities of life currently exempt from the state sales tax: groceries and prescription drugs. Clothing and non-prescription drugs are taxed at 7 percent, with prepared food at 9 percent.

The House introduced House Bill 1460 providing, "a sales tax exemption for transactions involving firearms and ammunition." I have not been able to ascertain the annual sales figures for guns and ammunition in our state, but would be interested in knowing what the House plans on cutting to pay for this government subsidy given to the gun owners of Indiana.

Carol Polos
Scherville

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