

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R.** _____

To prohibit the use of mail or interstate communications to assist suicide,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. TRAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit the use of mail or interstate communications
to assist suicide, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “_____ Act
5 of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ASSISTED SUICIDE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 18, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

1 **“§ 1123. Prohibiting assisted suicide through certain**
2 **communications**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever uses mail or interstate
4 communication to intentionally assist another individual in
5 taking that individual’s own life, and death results, shall
6 be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5
7 years, or both.

8 “(b) LIMITATION.—Any action taken in accordance
9 with State laws governing physician-assisted end of life
10 shall not constitute an offense under subsection (a).

11 “(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

12 “(1) SAFE HARBORS.—Nothing in this section
13 shall be construed to make any action taken in ac-
14 cordance with State laws governing physician as-
15 sisted end of life to be interpreted to preempt safe
16 harbors for physicians that are licensed by State
17 laws governing physician-assisted end of life.

18 “(2) STATE LAWS.—Nothing in this section
19 shall preempt the authority of a State to enact laws
20 relating to assisted suicide within such State.

21 “(3) SUICIDE.—Nothing in this section shall be
22 interpreted to make unlawful or otherwise crim-
23 inalize the act of suicide or deliberate self-injury, or
24 punish the person committing any such act.

25 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) ASSIST.—The term ‘assist’ means, with re-
2 spect to a person assisting another individual in tak-
3 ing that individual’s own life, that—

4 “(A) the person specifically aims to facili-
5 tate the individual’s suicide; and

6 “(B) the person furnishes the individual
7 with substantial material support to facilitate
8 the suicide, or with substantial communication
9 facilitating the suicide at the same time as an
10 attempt or act of suicide is occurring.

11 “(2) MATERIAL SUPPORT.—The term ‘material
12 support’ means any tangible property.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of section
14 for chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
15 by adding at the end the following:

“1123. Prohibiting assisted suicide through certain communications.”.