

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
OFFICE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Denise A. Cardman
(202) 662-1761
cardmand@staff.abanet.org

SENIOR LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
R. Larson Frisby
(202) 662-1098
frisbyr@staff.abanet.org

Lillian B. Gaskin
(202) 662-1768
gaskinl@staff.abanet.org

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
Kristi Gaines
(202) 662-1763
gainesk@staff.abanet.org

Kenneth J. Goldsmith
(202) 662-1789
goldsmithk@staff.abanet.org

Kerry M. Lawrence
(202) 662-1766
lawrenck@staff.abanet.org

Ellen McBarnette
(202) 662-1767
mcbarnee@staff.abanet.org

E. Bruce Nicholson
(202) 662-1769
nicholsonb@staff.abanet.org

DIRECTOR GRASSROOTS
OPERATIONS/LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
Julie M. Strandlie
(202) 662-1764
strandlj@staff.abanet.org

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAW CONSULTANT
Hayden Gregory
(202) 662-1772
gregoryh@staff.abanet.org

STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
Rita C. Aguilar
(202) 662-1780
aguilarr@staff.abanet.org

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Julie Pasatiempo
(202) 662-1776
jpasatiempo@staff.abanet.org

STAFF DIRECTOR FOR
INFORMATION SERVICES
Sharon Greene
(202) 662-1014
greenes@staff.abanet.org

EDITOR WASHINGTON LETTER
Rhonda J. McMillion
(202) 662-1017

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Governmental Affairs Office

740 Fifteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-1022
(202) 662-1760
FAX: (202) 662-1762

April 2, 2008

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
230 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of the American Bar Association, I commend you for your leadership in introducing S.J.Res. 29, a joint resolution of Congress expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day.

The ABA believes that adoption of this resolution and the establishment of National Health Care Decisions Day on April 16, 2008 will serve to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end-of-life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves. We are an active co-sponsor of National Health Care Decisions Day. As such, we will participate in the national outreach to raise public awareness of the issues and help to provide the resources necessary to assist people in executing an advance directive in accordance with state law.

The resolution supports the goal of advance care planning for all Americans by encouraging each adult, including all Members of Congress, to prepare an advance directive to assist his or her loved ones and health care providers in honoring their medical wishes. In addition, the resolution encourages health care, civic, educational, religious, and private and non-profit organizations to raise public awareness by encouraging individuals to prepare advance directives to ensure that their wishes and rights with respect to health care are protected.

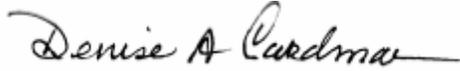
The ABA has been supportive of advance planning legal tools for many years. Over two decades ago, we recognized the Uniform Rights of Terminally Ill Act and the subsequent Uniform Health-Care Decisions Act. Among other things, we actively supported enactment of the Patient Self-Determination Act of 1990, which guarantees patients the right to information about their rights under State law regarding accepting or refusing medical treatment, and we are ardent advocates for encouraging the use and recognition of durable powers of attorney for health care.

The ABA welcomes prompt congressional action to pass this important resolution supporting the ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day. We

Page 2
April 2, 2008

hope that passage of this resolution will raise public awareness about the need for individuals to discuss with loved ones in advance of a health care crisis and decide what measures would be appropriate for them when it comes to end-of-life care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise A. Cardman". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Denise A. Cardman
Acting Director