

advice and assistance.

[[WHEREAS, Modern medicine is capable of prolonging life even when there is no hope that the individual can recover; and

WHEREAS, It is possible to prolong a person's life in this way by making the person either an appendage to a machine which provides all the life supports on an unconscious dependent or drugs; now, therefore, be it]]

Modern medicine through the use of sophisticated machinery and newly discovered drugs is now capable of prolonging life more than was formerly the case. While this is certainly worthwhile, there sometimes results interminable and tremendous emotional stress and strain, caused to a great degree by ever-burgeoning hope for complete recovery even though the illness is considered terminal now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That all hospitals and related institutions are urged to create life preservation advisory committees to aid, counsel and advise physicians, other hospital personnel and family members in [[making the difficult decisions that must occur at or near the end of a persons life]] dealing with the difficult circumstances arising in certain cases of terminal illness; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the life preservation committees shall include, but not be limited to, a medical advisor who is not a medical director of any nursing home or hospital; a lay person who is not a member of any hospital's administrative staff; an ethicist; a religious counselor; and a lawyer; and be it further

RESOLVED, That these life preservation advisory committees shall be readily available when requested to aid, counsel and advise [[the family members who are faced with making decisions during the emotional trauma of a dying relative or the hospital staff caring for the]] those persons charged with the responsibility for making decisions in the case of a terminally ill patient; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Maryland Hospital Association and the Maryland Nursing Home Association shall establish an advisory group to review the work of existing life preservation groups and to establish guidelines and suggest improvements; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Maryland Hospital Association, 301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201; and to the Maryland Nursing Home Association, 301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201; and that 200 copies be sent to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene (for distribution to each hospital, nursing home and related institution in