

EXHIBIT F-1

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-197

REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND
LABOR STUDY PHYSICIAN ORDERS FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT.

WHEREAS, while individuals are executing advance directives and designating surrogates to make healthcare decisions, the preferences for life-sustaining treatments of patients with advanced chronic progressive illness are often not found or not transferable and thus are not honored within a medical setting; and

WHEREAS, communication with healthcare professions about end-of-life preferences and documentation of the patient's preferences is inadequate; and

WHEREAS, advance directives do not always answer every possible question or take away uncertainty in a medical or clinical setting; and

WHEREAS, several states across the nation have adopted the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment or POLST paradigm to work in conjunction with advance health directives; and

WHEREAS, the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment paradigm is based on effective communication of patient wishes, documentation of medical orders on a brightly colored form, and promise by a healthcare professional to honor these wishes; and

WHEREAS, for numerous reasons, the State of Arkansas should strongly support efforts to improve advance care planning for the citizens of Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee On Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study different ideas and methods designed to utilize Physician Orders for Life-

1 Sustaining Treatment, including different strategies, programs, or
2 initiatives currently used by other states.

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4 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the Department of Health,
5 the Department of Human Services, and the Arkansas State Medical Board shall
6 provide assistance to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
7 Labor to perform this study.

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9 Respectfully submitted,

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13 Representative Deborah Ferguson
14 District 51

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17 By: JMB/JMB
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