

French lawmakers OK terminal sedation, not euthanasia

17 March 2015

France's lower house of Parliament has approved a bill that allows doctors to keep terminally ill patients sedated until death comes.

The proposed measure passed by a vote of 436 to 34. It will now have to be debated by the Senate.

Backed by the Socialist government, the bill stops short of recommending lethal injections and avoids the terms euthanasia or assisted suicide. The measure would give people "the right to deep, continuous sedation until death" at the patient's request, but only when their condition is life-threatening in the short term.

It would also force [doctors](#) in France to follow end-of-life instructions expressed by the patients themselves or written in advance, if they are no longer able to state their wishes.

© 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

APA citation: French lawmakers OK terminal sedation, not euthanasia (2015, March 17) retrieved 16 November 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-03-french-lawmakers-terminal-sedation-euthanasia.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.