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December 18, 2025

Statement of the New York State Council of Churches Regarding the Signing of the Medical Aid in Dying Act

Albany, NY- The New York State Council of Churches wishes to clarify its position regarding recent public statements issued in connection with the signing of the Medical Aid in Dying Act by Governor Kathy Hochul.

The Council is an ecumenical body that brings together the diverse voices and theological perspectives of nine denominations. Because of this diversity, the Council approaches ethically complex issues—such as the Medical Aid in Dying Act—with great care, consultation, and respect for the breadth of beliefs within our community.

The Council has never taken an official position on the Medical Aid in Dying Act. Any indication to the contrary was made without consultation with the Council's denominational representatives and without authorization from the Executive Committee or Board of Directors. Any public statements or memos of support previously issued reflected a personal opinion of a staff member, not the discerned position of the New York State Council of Churches.

To be clear: the Council does not currently hold a position either for or against this legislation. Our members are not of one mind on this matter, and our ecumenical identity requires us to honor the theological diversity within our fellowship.

We are committed to transparency, collaborative governance, and the ecumenical process that has guided this Council since its founding. We regret any confusion caused and reaffirm that no public stance on the Medical Aid in Dying Act has been authorized by the Council.

Sincerely,

Gary Van Kennen, President, New York State Council of Churches

Rashida Tyler, Acting Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches