



From the Office of the President

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.

REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**President Issues Statement on Proposition 106
September 20, 2016**

Dear Regis University Colleagues and Students:

As residents of Colorado, we recently learned of various ballot initiatives certified for the November state ballot by the Secretary of State. One such measure, Proposition 106 (“Colorado Medical Aid in Dying”) is of particular concern for Jesuit, Catholic organizations such as Regis University.

This measure would authorize for the first time in our state the taking of one’s own life through medications prescribed for that purpose by licensed physicians, a practice popularly known as “physician-assisted suicide.”

As President of Regis University, I have on occasions felt that I should speak out on such issues when I believe that our Jesuit, Catholic values can contribute to the dialogue in the public arena. In fact, I opposed in writing a similar physician-assisted suicide measure that was being considered by our state legislature in 2015. I have decided to do so again in response to Proposition 106.

You can read my current statement [here](#). You will also learn in the coming weeks of similar statements from religious leaders from many faith traditions in the region. I urge you to consider all of these statements thoughtfully and prayerfully as you decide how to vote on this important measure.

While I have decided to speak out on this important matter, I also want to reassure you that Regis respects your right both to vote your conscience and to engage in dialogues on this issue both on and off of our campus. Just as we honor our Jesuit, Catholic tradition and values, academic freedom is also at the heart of that same tradition in our University life. Indeed, we need the free exchange of ideas to come to a fuller understanding of the truth we all seek.

To that end, I asked some faculty in Religious Studies and Health Care Ethics to draft a brief “White Paper” explaining the Catholic position on this matter, which is available [here](#). The Institute on the Common Good and Office of Mission will also be offering a lunch-time campus dialogue session exploring “Inter-Faith Perspectives on Assisted Suicide” on October 13, and an evening program, “Protecting the Least Among Us” on October 20 to foster this conversation. I hope you will consider attending those programs as you are able.

Thank you for the respectful engagement that you will bring to these conversations.

Gratefully,

Father John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
President