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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Death of Brittany Maynard Underscores Importance of Advance Care Planning

We are deeply saddened to learn about the death of Brittany Maynard, a young woman suffering from a fatal brain tumor who moved to Oregon where physician assisted suicide is legal under the state's [Death with Dignity Act](#).

Her public support of the Death with Dignity and choice-in-dying cause raises profound questions for each of us as individuals and as members of families, communities and societies at large. Regardless of whether we agree or disagree with her choice to end her life in the legally prescribed manner afforded her as a resident of the state of Oregon, certainly we can all sympathize with her family and loved ones, sharing in the sadness of the loss of a young woman at the prime of her life.

The Center has always encouraged families to talk about the importance of the end of life and to share their values, preferences and commitments to love and care for each other during these difficult times. Free copies of the Center's [Caring Conversations® Workbook](#), which can help guide individuals and families through the Advance Care Planning process, are available for download from our website.

May the death of Brittany Maynard prompt all of us to engage more authentically in the penetrating and mysterious meanings that life, illness, dependence and death holds for ourselves and those we love. And may we further commit to share those thoughts in the most intimate and respectful ways possible with each other and our caregivers.

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