**Subject:** April 16 Opportunity to Educate re Healthcare Directives

Dear [name of clergy/religious leader],

I’d like to let you know about an opportunity to educate your **congregation or religious community** about an important topic: **advance healthcare planning**.

**As you are on the front line of this challenging issue** -- seeing the impact when people have not made their medical wishes known -- we know that you fully appreciate how important such advance decision-making can be.

**April 16** has been designated as **National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD).**  This initiative is a collaboration among national, state and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity in the United States have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions.

**If you are interested in using National Healthcare Decisions Day as an opportunity to educate your community about making advance healthcare decisions, NHDD has many resources available to assist you*.*  Informational material for you to use** can be found on NHDD’s [Resources](http://www.nhdd.org/#resources) page. This is, of course, i**n addition to the information about advance directives available through your own denomination/religious organization.**  Here are some ideas for educating your community that you might wish to consider:

* ***Bring in a speaker*** *to make a presentation about advance directives. We can help connect you with speakers in your area – attorneys, physicians, hospitals, etc.*
* ***Give a sermon*** *on the importance of completing an advance medical directive. The* [*NHDD website*](http://www.nhdd.org/) *has content suitable for use in a sermon.  (you can direct members to activities at local hospitals; give the website for downloading free advance directives; and even have copies available for congregants to complete.)*
* ***Post an article*** *in your congregational newsletter  (the* [*draft newsletter piece*](http://www.nhdd.org/resources/#participant-resources) *on the NHDD website would be a great starting point)*
* ***Let your community know about local NHDD activities and resources.***  *Direct them to [website address for your state’s NHDD activities, if applicable]**for specific events in [name of state].*
* ***Offer to speak*** *at a local hospital, nursing home, or other facility at an event they may be planning.*

If you choose, you can register formally as a participant in National Healthcare Decisions Day by completing the [online registration form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=6MVXG7ScHLNdjoMA4jLKnw_3d_3d).  Also, you can post any events you have planned on the [name of state]-specific NHDD website by contacting [insert appropriate contact person/info].  This website,*[state NHDD website address]*, is graciously hosted by [insert name of organization handling the website or webpage].

Please email me at [your email address] if you are considering planning an event or would like additional information.  If I can assist you in any other way, please contact me, as well.

Sincerely,