

OPPOSE THE LEGALIZATION OF ASSISTED SUICIDE!

Assisted suicide is bad medicine — a prescription for abuse

So-called safeguards are hollow.

If assisted suicide is legalized, **some people's lives will be ended without their consent, through mistakes and abuse.** No safeguards have ever been enacted or proposed that can prevent this outcome, which can never be undone.

The dangers of legalized assisted suicide are many:

- ▶ **Deadly mix:** Assisted suicide is a deadly mix with our profit-driven health care system. At \$300, assisted suicide will be the cheapest treatment. Assisted suicide saves insurance companies large sums of money.
- ▶ **Abuse:** The abuse of people with disabilities, and elder abuse, are rising. An heir or abusive caregiver may steer someone towards assisted suicide, witness the request, pick up the lethal dose, and even give the drug. No witnesses are required at the death, so who would know?
- ▶ **Mistakes:** Diagnoses of terminal illness are too often wrong, leading people to give up on treatment and lose good years of their lives.
- ▶ **Carelessness:** No psychological evaluation is required. People with a history of depression and suicide attempts have received the lethal drugs rather than lifesaving treatment.
- ▶ **Burden:** Financial and emotional pressures can also make people choose death.
- ▶ **Unnecessary:** Everyone already has the right to refuse treatment and get full palliative care, including, if dying in pain, pain-relieving palliative sedation.
- ▶ **No true safeguards:** The safeguards are hollow, with no enforcement or investigation authority.
- ▶ **Quality of life underrated:** Society often underrates the quality of life for people with disabilities. Will doctors and nurses fully explore patients' concerns and fight for their full lives? Will vulnerable people be given suicide prevention or suicide assistance?

Many disability organizations and medical groups oppose legalization. As the American Medical Association warns, "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks."



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