

2021 Annual Micheal H. Wolfe Contest
Essay

Right-to-Life Assisted Suicide

By Lilly V. Reuter

Bill C-14



What would you do if you were overlooked by your peers as mentally unstable, and then someone came up offering to end your life for you? This may seem like a surreal question to ask, but people get asked this more than you would think. As sickening as assisted suicide may be, there are multiple states that this is legal. Assisted suicide is nothing to joke about. This dangerous chaos becomes out of control, leading to major life consequences. Assisted suicide is the action of which a person will voluntarily end someone's life for them. This has become a very large problem in some states. If someone has a preference of death over life there are multiple ways to cope with it. Assisted suicide should never be the answer. Any form of suicide will do much more harm than good.

We have been given the privilege of owning weapons to help save lives, but assisted suicide made it nearly impossible for people to be trusted. Medicine was given to us to help cure deadly diseases. But when modern day society offers patients overdoses of medication hoping for death, this begins a whole new problem. Wishing death upon anyone is always implausible and greatly frowned upon, yet many people still do it. On the scu.edu website it states, "all persons have a moral right to choose freely what they will do with their lives as long as they inflict no harm on others." (Andre, 2015) This statement proves that causing others harm is never something you should do. Assisted suicide breaks this rule in every way possible. As a society we need to work together to make sure that everyone is getting the amount of help that they need.

If you see someone mentally struggling, reach out for help. Taking action sooner rather than later could potentially save lives. Medicine.yale.edu states, "Society's moral duty is to protect and preserve all human life." (Curtis, 2007) This hints that therefore destroying lives, violates the duty of saving human life. Assisted suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary situation. Therefore we need to come to the consensus that declining threats to the lives of innocent people is the best way out.

The right-to-life movement is very important to me because everyone deserves to be living their best lives. You only live once, why waste it? Human life always ends with death, it depends on you whether you make it last or not. There are many other options rather than assisted suicide. For instance, therapy. Therapy has helped thousands of people overcome life challenges, it creates an escape from reality. Once the struggling patient finds a healthy coping mechanism, there will be a tremendous growth in their mental health. Our generation is very fortunate with the amount of therapy treatments we can choose from. There are over 50 therapeutic resolutions a person can choose between, the most common being CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.) Overall the United States has had quite a few issues with suicide. Samhsa.edu states, "Suicide is now the second leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults aged 15 to 24 in the United States." (McCance-Katz, 2020) This proves that as a society we need to combine efforts and offer those people the help they need. Nobody deserves to be going through this alone.

Assisted Suicide should never be the answer to anyone's problems. There are many people that agree to this method of death, but later are charged with criminal prosticutions due to murder. It is much easier to be safer than sorry. Find a coping mechanism that works for those struggling rather than death being the final answer.

Bibliography

University, Santa Clara. "Assisted Suicide." Markkula Center for Applied Ethics,

<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/bioethics/resources/assisted-suicide-a-right-or-a-wrong/>

University, Santa Clara. "Assisted Suicide." *Markkula Center for Applied Ethics*,

<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/bioethics/resources/assisted-suicide-a-right-or-a-wrong/>

Anderson, Ryan. "Always Care, Never Kill: How Physician-Assisted Suicide Endangers the Weak, Corrupts Medicine, Compromises the Family, and Violates Human Dignity and Equality." The Heritage Foundation,

<https://www.heritage.org/health-care-reform/report/always-care-never-kill-how-physician-assisted-suicide-endangers-the-weak>.

"Effective, Affordable Online Therapy & Counseling " Try Talkspace." Effective, Affordable Online Therapy & Counseling " Try Talkspace,

[https://www.talkspace.com/online-therapy/#:~:text=Therapy%20\(or%20psychotherapy%2C%20sometimes%20called,human%20challenges%20we%20all%20face](https://www.talkspace.com/online-therapy/#:~:text=Therapy%20(or%20psychotherapy%2C%20sometimes%20called,human%20challenges%20we%20all%20face).

Curtis, John. "Physician-Assisted Suicide Is the Wrong Solution." Yale School of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine, 15 Apr. 2007,

<https://medicine.yale.edu/news/yale-medicine-magazine/physicianassisted-suicide-is-the-wrong-solution/>.