

## Should assisted suicide be legalized for terminally ill patients?

No, I do not think assisted suicide should be legalized for terminally ill patients.

First of all, doctors have sworn an oath to the health and safety of their patients, so getting doctors involved in the intentional termination of their patients' lives is a morbid contradiction of their responsibilities. We also have to think about what would happen to a doctor who has moral objections to being asked to assist in suicide. Will that doctor be targeted by society or by the government for refusing to comply with the patient's legal request? It all sets a bad precedent.

Second, despite the terminality of the patient's illness, how do we properly evaluate whether the patient is in the right mental state to make such a drastic decision despite the suffering they are experiencing? When people who are not diagnosed with a terminal illness threaten to kill themselves, the authorities and even medical professionals are called upon for emergency intervention. We have to ask ourselves how this desire for suicide is different from the terminally ill person's desire for suicide and why one is denied but the other is taken into consideration. Should anyone who seeks to end their life be able to legally ask anyone, a doctor or otherwise, as long as they give legal consent? These are all troubling questions that if not answered properly can, set more bad precedents. While the desire to relieve the suffering of the terminally ill sounds compassionate, creating a culture of suicide upon request is a direction we'd best not take our society into as it can lead to further problems.

This is why I do not think assisted suicide should be legalized for terminally ill patients. I think the next best option for the terminally ill who seek death, is to request the end of medical treatment and allow them to be comfortable until death comes naturally.

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