

"We are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights. To secure these rights, governments are instituted among men."

---

# OPPOSE

## "Assisted Suicide"

### A Cruel Disregard for Human Life

***Canada's history with "medical assistance in dying" (MAID) is a good reason for lawmakers to reject "assisted suicide."*** <https://tinyurl.com/5n728p23>

- MAID in Canada was promoted as a last resort for terminally ill patients suffering from incurable pain. But in the space of just a few years, assisted dying has been made available to pretty much anyone who is struggling with an illness or a disability. Even Canadians facing homelessness and poverty are feeling compelled to end their lives, rather than 'burden' the system.
- In 2023, a bill that would have expanded MAID to include mental illness was narrowly defeated by a vote of 167 to 150. Canada will revisit this in 2027.
- In 2016, 79% of Canadians supported MAID in limited circumstances. In 2023, only 30% of Canadians supported MAID.
- In 2021, 35.7% of MAID patients said they believed themselves to be a 'burden on family, friends, or caregivers.'
- In 2022, in Quebec, the first province to legalize euthanasia, a shocking 8% of all deaths were attributed to MAID.
- MAID offers both euthanasia (a doctor ending a patient's life with a lethal injection) and assisted suicide (giving the patient the means to end his own life).
- Many Canadians seek MAID due to the absence of palliative care and the long waiting list for healthcare.
- In roughly 5 years, there have been **428 failures to comply** with Canada's MAID law, yet not a single case has been reported to the police. <https://tinyurl.com/29wx6sky>

***Belgium's history with euthanasia is a good reason for lawmakers to reject "assisted suicide."*** <https://tinyurl.com/3znaztvp>

- By 2023, euthanasia in Belgium had increased by 14,163% from when it was legalized in 2002. That includes a 15% increase from 2022 to 2023 alone! With additional "undeclared euthanasia," that could be much higher.
- Nearly 12% of all euthanasia was carried out on patients who were not expected to die in the short term.
- In 2023, 76.2% of Belgium's euthanasia was administered to patients with both physical and psychological conditions which included personality disorders, depression, and Alzheimer's disease.

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. — Deuteronomy 30:19-20

(over)

## ***The Netherlands' history with euthanasia is a good reason for lawmakers to reject***

***"assisted suicide."*** <https://tinyurl.com/4e4p8wtv>

- A new law in the Netherlands went into effect on February 1, 2024, allowing parents to euthanize children between the ages of 1 and 12 even when the children do not want to be euthanized.
- On February 5, 2024, after being married for 65 years, the former Dutch Prime Minister, Dries van Agt, and his wife Eugenia van Agt-Krekelberg were euthanized together, leaving behind 3 children and 7 grandchildren. It was unclear what ailments Eugenia was suffering from other than fear of being left alone. <https://tinyurl.com/yt3mt3ef>
- "Joint" euthanasia is on the rise. <https://tinyurl.com/3v8ej9jh>
- 282 people with dementia and 115 with psychological disorders requested to be euthanized in 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/3v8ej9jh>

## ***Oregon's history with "Death with Dignity" is a good reason for lawmakers to reject***

***"assisted suicide."***

- Legalized in 1997 to give **terminally ill** people the ability to end their life, the most recent "Oregon report includes deaths due to anorexia, arthritis, arteritis, blood disease, complications from a fall, hernia, kidney failure, medical care complications, musculoskeletal system disorders, sclerosis, and stenosis." <https://tinyurl.com/3me73aku>

## ***Groups in favor of assisted suicide admit their goal is to expand it beyond the terminally ill.***

- Massachusetts Death with Dignity, J.M. Sorrell "...the hoops you have to go through to get medical aid in dying. Once you get something passed, you can always work on amendments later, so I'm working to be patient." <https://tinyurl.com/yc78n2tk>
- Barbara Coombs Lee, former President of Compassion and Choices, regarding people with dementia, "It is an issue for another day but it is no less compelling." <https://tinyurl.com/bde3c8hv>
- Thaddeus Pope, prominent bioethicist and supporter of assisted suicide, envisions eligibility being extended to non-terminal disabled patients. <https://tinyurl.com/chex5azk>
- A Better Exit's proposal to amend California law would expand eligibility to those with more than 6 months to live and mid-stage dementia to request lethal drugs. <https://tinyurl.com/yckhxrze>
- A Better Exit wants to do away with California's residency requirement safeguard. <https://tinyurl.com/yckhxrze>

**Illinois lawmakers must NOT promote death as a cheaper, easier alternative to life's struggles and thereby forego their responsibility to vulnerable citizens.**

**Jesus said, "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come." – Luke 17:1**

