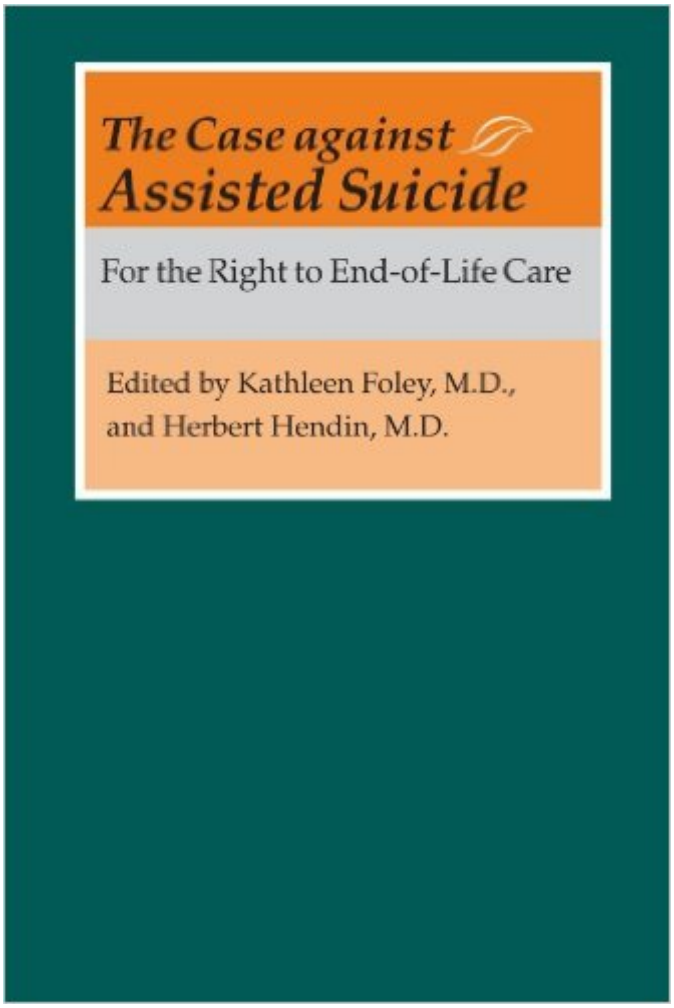
The Case Against Assisted Suicide: For The Right To End-of-Life Care



Synopsis

In The Case against Assisted Suicide: For the Right to End-of-Life Care, Dr. Kathleen Foley and Dr. Herbert Hendin uncover why pleas for patient autonomy and compassion, often used in favor of legalizing euthanasia, do not advance or protect the rights of terminally ill patients. Incisive essays by authorities in the fields of medicine, law, and bioethics draw on studies done in the Netherlands, Oregon, and Australia by the editors and contributors that show the dangers that legalization of assisted suicide would pose to the most vulnerable patients. Thoughtful and persuasive, this book urges the medical profession to improve palliative care and develop a more humane response to the complex issues facing those who are terminally ill.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press; 1 edition (March 25, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801879019

ISBN-13: 978-0801879012

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,967,488 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Euthanasia #374 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Hospice Care #474 inÂ Books > Law > Health & Medical Law > Medical Law & Legislation

Customer Reviews

Editors Kathleen Foley and Herbert Hendin note in their preface to The Case Against Assisted Suicide that much of the dialogue on physician-assisted suicide (PAS) involved one side invoking religious principles against assisted suicide, while the other proponents of PAS invoked feelings compassion and talk about autonomy. This book is a welcome change to that deadlock by investigating in non-sectarian language the very problematic nature of physician-assisted suicide. Even better, the primary contributions are from physicians in end-of-life care or disability advocates and hospice workers, giving the reader an intimate view of the realities of end-of-life care.The book is divided into four sections:The first section has an impressive line-up. Bioethicist Dan Callahan’s essay on compassion and its limits undercuts some of the strongest arguments that PAS proponents make. He is joined by Yale Kamisar’s legal critique of PAS, and also an essay on the

patient-doctor relationship by Leon Kass, the head of the Presidential Committee of Bioethics.The second section is the most disturbing as it examines the reality of physician assisted suicide in Oregon, the Netherlands, and during a period of time in the Northwest Territory of Australia. Every essay is written by one or two physicians who practice medicine in the country or state affected by assisted suicide. Running as a theme through all these accounts is the silence surrounding suicides, the squelching of meaningful discussion of suicide alternatives, and the lack of any real oversight.Upon reading the second section, a PAS proponent may retort, "oh fine, the Dutch and the Oregonians have messed it up, so we'll just improve it in the future.

Kathleen Foley, MD & Herbert Hendin, MD, editorsThe Case Against Assisted Suicide:For the Right to End-of-Life Care(Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins UP: [....], 2002) 371 pages(ISBN: 0-8018-7901-9; paperback)(Library of Congress call number: R726.C355 2002)(Medical call number: W32.5AA1C337) This is a collection of articles and essays by several different authors,all pointing out problems with the right-to-diesuch as the physician aid-in-dying now available in Oregon and Washington.Johns Hopkins University Press also published a similar collectionthat took the opposite point of view:Physician-Assisted Suicide:The Case for Palliative Care and Patient Choiceedited by Timothy E. Quill, MD & Margaret P. Battin, PhD.This book is reviewed in the companion bibliography:"Best Books on the Right-to-Die".Search the Internet for that exact expression.This review is actually a review of some chapters from the book.Only the most insightful and original chapters are reviewed.~~~~~~~~ Chapter 1: "I Will Give No Deadly Drug":Why Doctors Must Not Killby Leon R. Kass, MD, PhD. People who are old and sick can sometimes be persuadedthat death is the best option for them.It relieves them of any further suffering.And their families are also relievedof the further stress of their disease and dying.Kass wonders whether we have gone too farin the direction of patient autonomy.Just because a patient 'wants to die'does not mean that death is the best choice.

Suicide Understanding Assisted Suicide: Nine Issues to Consider (Writers on Writing) The Euthanasia/Assisted-Suicide Debate (Historical Guides to Controversial Issues in America) The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia (New Forum Books) Liberalism's Troubled Search for Equality: Religion and Cultural Bias in the Oregon Physician-Assisted Suicide Debates Forced Exit: The Slippery Slope from Assisted Suicide to Legalized Murder Intending Death: The Ethics of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia A Chosen Death: The Dying Confront Assisted Suicide Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide: Killing or Caring? Last Rights?: Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia Debated Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide Final Exit: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide for the Dying, 3rd Edition Orchids Care Bundle 3 in 1, THE NEW EDITION: Orchids + Orchids Care For Hobbyists + Phalaenopsis Orchids Care (Orchids Care, House Plants Care, Gardening Techniques Book 4) Cats: Cat Care: Kitten Care: How To Take Care Of And Train Your Cat Or Kitten (Complete Guide To Cat Care & Kitten Care With Pro Training Grooming & Nutrition Tips)