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Euthanasia

Everyone wishes to die in peace, but according to research conducted in 2015 by the Statistic Brain Institute, on average fifty-five percent of terminally ill patients die in pain because euthanasia isn’t an option that is allowed in most places (Web, Harden “Euthanasia Statistics”). Terminally ill patients with less than six months to live, should have a right to choose whether they want to end their suffering. As of June 2016, only four countries have legalized euthanasia; Netherlands, Belgium, Colombia and Luxembourg. The United States is the third largest country in the world, with a population of over 324.9 million people as of 2016, and yet only five states within the US have legalized assisted suicide; Washington, Oregon, Vermont, Montana and California (Web, Worldmeters.info “U.S Population (LIVE)”). Not enough states within the US have legalized euthanasia. With this in mind, the state of Arizona should legalize euthanasia because it is ethical, benefits the economy and can do more help than harm.

Not only will the legalization of euthanasia help the United States be progressive, but it is also ethical. The journal article “Living With Suffering As Voice by Thai Patients With Terminal Advanced Cancer” by Nilmanat Kittikorn, depicts the final stages of fifteen terminally ill patients. In his article, Nilmanat Kittikorn states that “Ten of them experienced moderate-to-severe pain on a daily basis in the last month of life” (Nilmanat 395). A patient’s last memories should not be of agony. Hospice care facilities are centered around the idea of making one feel as comfortable as possible, but they fail to realize that no amount of sedatives can completely take
away their patient’s pain. Death is inevitable, but suffering is a choice. Euthanasia is ethical because it’s merciful killing.

Euthanasia is a choice that has the potential to greatly improve the economy. According to the research article “The Impact Of Hospice Care On Survival And Healthcare Costs For Patients With Lung Cancer” by Juikun Chaing, Yeehsin Kao and N Lai, twenty-five percent of healthcare costs within the United States are in relation to patients in their last year of life (Chaing, Kao & Lai 2). All the money that is used on patients who don’t want to suffer anymore, could instead go to saving those with a fighting chance. Healthcare costs can be overwhelming not just for the patient, but for their loved ones too. The more medical care provided, the higher the costs. Euthanasia is an alternative because not every patient has the benefit of health insurance, so instead of paying for hospice care, a patient can choose to have a more peaceful and painless departure.

The legalization of euthanasia does not bring harm to anyone. In fact, the legalization of euthanasia can save lives. In Arizona, assisted suicide is illegal and can be charged for manslaughter. Much like Dr. Kevorkian from the University of Michigan, many other doctors have been sentenced because they respected their patient’s wishes and assisted them in death. Dr. Jack Kevorkian was a well-respected pathologist whom in spite of having consent by the patients to assist them in suicide, was sentenced to 10-25 years of incarceration by Michigan judge, Jessica Cooper of Oakland County Circuit Court, in 1999 (Web. The New York Times. 1999). If euthanasia was legal, we’d have more brilliant minds at work instead of locked up.
On the other hand, as Richard Fenigsen mention in his book *Other People's Lives: Reflections On Medicine, Ethics, And Euthanasia. Part Two: Medicine Versus Euthanasia*, “In Holland, the acceptance of euthanasia by the public and the doctors has been followed by reports indicating that doctors, indeed, were getting confused in their double role as healers and killers” (Fenigsen 62). Euthanasia goes against what doctors are supposed to do. It is hypocritical to be a healer and a killer. However, it’s not murder if the patient gave consent. On the contrary, assisted suicide only ensures a peaceful departure for the patient because it ends their suffering.

Euthanasia should be legal in the state of Arizona. It’s a great way to honor a loved one’s wishes as well as ensure that they will rest in peace. They’d be free of pain and the family free of debt on medical bills. Assisted suicide is one of the last things one could do for their loved ones. With assisted suicide, patients could be rid of pain and go out the way they want to. Euthanasia is ethical because it is merciful killing. It can save lives by conserving resources and using them on patients who can still survive. Assisted suicide doesn’t harm anyone.

Works Cited
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