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Scholarship Revision: Assisted Suicide

1. Should assisted suicide be legalized? The issue of assisted suicide matters as it has affected the lives of many people, and each person has a different opinion of the topic at hand. A few terms that have a direct connection to assisted suicide are ethics, euthanasia, and hippocratic oath. Some background of assisted suicide; during the 1990's a doctor named Jack Kevorkian, who had taken the hippocratic oath, and was charged with murder because he assisted a man who was terminally ill by ending his life as that is what his patient wanted most. Assisted suicide has since then been a century long debate, and is still a popular subject all over the United States. The topic of assisted suicide has a lot of controversy during present day discussion, including the pro viewpoint that it is a humane way to end pain and suffering for someone who is terminally ill. Some people disagree, and believe that assisted suicide is immoral and violates the tenets of modern day medicine.

2. The pro viewpoint of the controversy that assisted suicide should be legalized is that it is a humane way to end pain and suffering for someone who is terminally ill. The main organizations that are direct representatives of assisted suicide are, American Medical Association, Presidents council of Bioethics, and lastly the activist Jack Kevorkian. "When my husband was diagnosed with metastatic cancer in February, he asked physicians whether they would provide him the means to end his life quickly if he choose. They either evaded the

question or said they were unable to comply” (Marcia). This evidence shows that with the laws that are in place they take this man’s rights to decide to live or die and that should be his choice as a living person. “In June he died at home in Massachusetts, with hospital care, but not in the way he wanted. I see no reason we should have been denied that final measure of control” (Marcia). This shows how the wife of the patient feels that even though he is now done suffering, her and their family are upset that he was not granted his final decision. With these touching real life experiences, it shows that there are many pro-viewpoints to the legalization assisted suicide would be supported by many people.

3. The con viewpoint of the topic of legalizing assisted suicide is that it is morally wrong and violates the basics tenets of medicine. The hippocratic oath is a oath most doctors must take to become a certified doctor. The oath itself tells that all doctors cannot assisted any of their patients in ending their life. The oath is enforced very heavily and has sent doctors to jail for murder. “... but the exercising of healing people and killing people are opposed to one another” (Paul A13). This shows that some peoples opinions include that thought of when someone deals with assisted suicide it is an act of killing or murder instead of ending their pain and suffering. “, Americans have fought off such dire temptations with reasoned arguments about the nature of medicine” (Paul A13). The people with the con viewpoint or opinion have the feeling of that we should not resort to death in people who are ill when we have the advanced medical technology and availability of the medicine in today’s hospitals. With the many examples of people’s opposing thoughts of assisted suicide shows why it is the large controversy and debate in today’s world.

4. With the controversy of assisted suicide comes many different viewpoints, some believe that it is a humane way to end someone's life who is terminally ill and suffering, and some people think that it is morally wrong and contradicts modern medicine. For the pro viewpoints, people all over have the idea that either their loved ones, or just someone who is sick, should not have to live a dreadful and painful life if they choose not to. And a con being that people should not have to die in an unnatural way and should die naturally. The supportive viewpoint seems to be stronger as more people have had a real life experience or even the feeling that this practice should be continued out of sheer morality. Most people have different views on this topic, but everyone should take a moment to imagine it being you or one of your loved ones, what would you want for them?

Work Cited

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