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Painful Realities

Everyone faces trials at least one time in their life that test every ounce of their being. These trials can prompt the desire for an escape that is so strong one considers suicide or even physician assisted suicide. Physician assisted suicide is where, through the aid of a doctor, a person is administered a lethal drug that will take their life. Many disagree on whether physician assisted suicide is okay or not and it differs based on one’s morals as well as religious beliefs. Whether it is acceptable depends on the situation of the patient, because one can empathize with those in favor as well as those opposed.

From interviewing nurse practitioner Jame Sinclair, “It is justified because we take care of patients suffering mercilessly that have a terminal illness...sometimes living by artificial means and feeding tubes isn’t living and not treating a patient can inflict more harm than it does good”. When a person gets diagnosed and is living with a terminal illness it may be the same as living out a painful death sentence. Leading patients to die in this state of pain that may have been perpetuated and extended for a lengthy period of time. They are subjected to unnecessary suffering and therefore one can see how the above-mentioned patients, if in their right mind, would want to make this choice.

On the other hand one can also empathize with those not in favor. When interviewing Dr. Fernandez he explained, “Physician assisted suicide is not justified and goes against the

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Hippocratic oath that says to preserve life...patients making this choice can divide families due to guilt and irrationality”. Once one makes this choice to end their life there is no going back as well as no more available options. When a patient makes this choice it doesn’t just affect them either; it effects the doctors, hospital staff, and family members. Human life is precious with few situations that are hopeless, so this option should never be one's first choice, Jame Sinclair said “We don’t go around killing people just to kill them”. People were made to withstand pain and keep fighting even when it seems impossible.

Many things require people to make a definitive decision, but the issue of physician assisted suicide isn’t one of those things. It honestly depends on the case at hand and what is going on with the patient. Muddled in humanity this topic encompasses many different perspectives and requires respect to others with differing beliefs. Every life counts, thus every decision made should be in the best interest of the patient keeping in mind that the quality of life may be better than the quantity.