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News / Canadian Politics

Quebec College of Physicians slammed for suggesting MAID for severely ill newborns

'Canada cannot begin killing babies when doctors predict there is no hope for them. Predictions are far too often based on discriminatory assumptions about life with a disability'

Catherine Lévesque

Published Oct 11, 2022 • 4 minute read

244 Comments



Until now, Canada has resisted expanding assistance in dying to children under the age of 18, but there has been some consideration given to making it accessible to 'mature minors.' PHOTO BY TERESA CRAWFORD /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OTTAWA — The Quebec College of Physicians is being slammed by advocacy groups for suggesting that it be legal to euthanize severely ill newborns.

Dr. Louis Roy, from the Quebec College of Physicians, told the Commons' Special Joint Committee of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) on Friday that his organization believes MAiD can be appropriate for infants up to age one who are born with "severe malformations" and "grave and severe syndromes" for which their "prospective of survival is null, so to speak."



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In a statement to the National Post, Inclusion Canada said it was "alarmed" by Roy's recommendation that Canada "legalize euthanasia for infants with disabilities under the age of one."

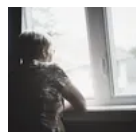
"Most families of children born with disabilities are told from the start that their child will, in one way or another, not have a good quality of life," said Krista Carr, Inclusion Canada's executive vice president.

"Canada cannot begin killing babies when doctors predict there is no hope for them. Predictions are far too often based on discriminatory assumptions about life with a disability," she added.

Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, said he does not see why doctors would agree to MAiD for newborns if their chances of survival are next to nothing anyways.

"Why would you then have to give the child a lethal dose? If the child is not going to survive, the child can be kept comfortable and die naturally. There's no reason for us to kill the child. There's no reason for us to do this at all," he said.

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Inclusion Canada said it is also concerned about the "fundamental lack of consent involved in euthanizing an infant."

"An infant cannot consent to their own death. This isn't MAiD, it's murder. And providing MAiD to a person who cannot consent is a standard that is wildly dangerous for all persons with intellectual disabilities in Canada," said Carr.

The Quebec College of Physicians was not available for an interview on Monday, but referred to a press release published in December 2021, following a consultation by the College, which highlights some areas of expansion for MAiD, including for minors aged 0-1 and 14-17.

The press release said that MAiD could be an avenue for infants who are subject to "extreme suffering that cannot be soothed, coupled with very dark prognostics," while adding that this treatment would have to be regulated by a "strict protocol."

The College mentioned the Netherlands' Groningen Protocol — a detailed process that includes unbearable suffering confirmed by at least one doctor and informed consent from both parents — as an avenue to explore in Canada for euthanasia for severely ill newborns.

It also recommended making MAiD accessible to minors from 14 to 17 years old, with the authorization of parents or of a tutor, adding that suffering has no age and that it can be as intolerable as for adults.

Until now, Canada has resisted expanding assistance in dying to children under the age of 18, but there has been some consideration given to making it accessible to “mature minors.”

The joint Senate and House of Commons committee currently conducting a review of the Criminal Code MAiD provisions is looking at “issues relating to mature minors, advance requests, mental illnesses, the state of palliative care in Canada and the protection of Canadians with disabilities.”

Roy's brief comments concerning expanding MAiD to infants were picked up by National Post columnist Ben Woodfinden, who shared a clip of the English translation of Roy's testimony in French on Twitter, and expressed concern over the lack of consent coming from an infant in agreeing to their own death.



“Assisted death or suicide isn’t even the right word for what’s being described here. A baby cannot consent, a baby cannot decide they want to end their own life, it’s not about any kind of ‘choice’ or ‘autonomy.’ It’s straight up infanticide,” wrote Woodfinden.

Others expressed their concern, including Dominick Evans, an American filmmaker and activist for people living with disabilities.

“I have many friends who were told this in infancy who have lived into adulthood and have thriving lives,” said Evans. “My disability was not diagnosed until I was four, but it was as though I had already ‘died’ because everybody was so abysmal towards being diagnosed with a disability.”

Canadian Physicians for Life said it was “frightening” to see the Quebec College of Physicians “suggesting euthanizing infants.”

Schadenberg suggested that giving the choice to parents to put an end to the life of their newborns, even if they are severely ill, would “open up the door to further expansion” of MAID and potentially result in some abuse or misuse of the procedure going forward.


“Now, it’s not about my autonomy, my choice. If I can do that to a newborn, why can’t I do that to someone who never asked for it, who never showed any interest in it but now has Alzheimer’s?”

He added that the accepted criteria have evolved quickly since C-14 was passed in 2016 and C-7 in 2021. The sunset clause that temporarily restricts MAID for people whose sole underlying medical condition is mental illness will expire in March 2023.




TRENDING


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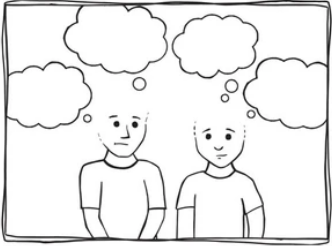
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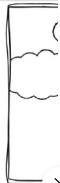
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21

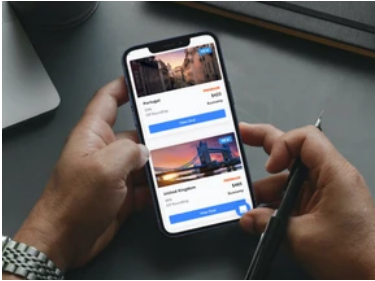
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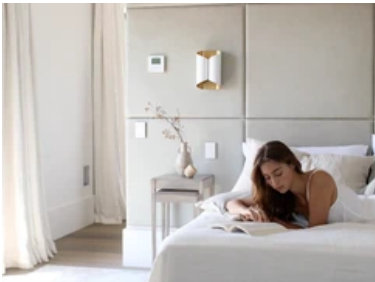
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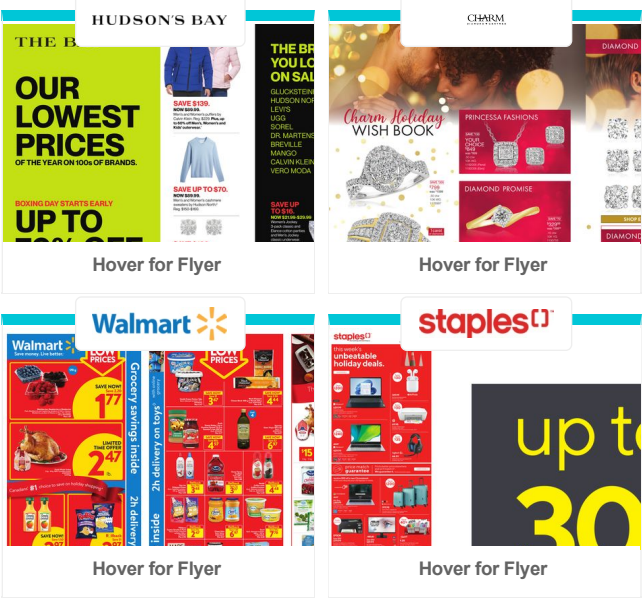


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MOST LIKED



Jennifer Thomas OCTOBER 11, 2022

Speaking as a bereaved mother, who lost a young son to leukemia, it's a brutal affair to watch your child die. Every part of yourself you thought you understood -- every easy, comfortable assumption -- gets ripped out and left in a heap of jumbled threads on the floor of your life. After that, if you're lucky and you find a mentor to help you through the grief, you can reweave those threads into a deeper understanding of what it means to be a human being. Part of that inner evolution is the chance to feel quietly proud of yourself for knowing when to hang on and when to let go. The rest of your life then becomes an opportunity to be a mentor for others going through the turmoil of profound grief.

When it was clear our son wasn't going to make it, we let go. We accepted reality and brought him home to die at the time that was right for him (with palliative pain care, of course). We tried to respect what was right for him -- not what was easy for us, but what was right for him. When he died, we had no regrets about what might have been.

Euthanasia wasn't necessary. But allowing the difficult path of death to unfold was. This path isn't linear, but it has its own inner logic if you can find the faith and courage to trust it.

Many Canadians -- and many Canadian health care workers -- can no longer sort out the intense emotions that come with death and dying, so first we panic and deny, then we force life without dignity on the dying, and then we force death without trust or faith on the living.

What a mess we've made of death.

3 REPLIES 21 0

3

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

MJ

Mark Johnson OCTOBER 11, 2022

Problem with MAID you can see this getting extended to bullied teenagers or teenagers who get confused.
The baby thing is just sick

This seems to be the Liberals solution to health care, kill all the sick right down to newborns.

5 REPLIES 16 1

5

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

HK

Howard Kirshenbaum OCTOBER 11, 2022

Once you start killing it's hard to stop. - Mengele

1 REPLY 16 0

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

MM

Marky Mark OCTOBER 11, 2022

Very chilling and the continuation of a very slippery slope

15 0

MJ

Mary Jones OCTOBER 11, 2022

That didn't take long, did it? The cult of death strikes again.

Those who have been warning about the slippery slope of euthanasia have been consistently derided as uncaring conspiracy theorists. Turns out, they were right.

15 1

JM

Jim Mason OCTOBER 11, 2022

"Dr. Louis Roy, from the Quebec College of Physicians, [said] that his organization believes MAiD can be appropriate for infants up to age one ..."

Ok, Dr. Roy, what's so magic about the age of one? Once you get that approved, will you be back again to get it increased to two, then three, while at the same time you are busy getting it approved "for minors aged ... 14-17" and downwards until the two meet up and it will be for all ages?

I have always thought that doctors provided health care, which is defined as "the improvement of health via the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, amelioration, or cure of disease, illness, injury, and other physical and mental impairments in people."

Killing people, especially infants who have no say, hardly seems to fit this definition.

When doctors become advocates for killing innocent, defenceless people, we have surely gone through the looking glass.

6 REPLIES 13 0

6

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

JT

Joe Talbot OCTOBER 11, 2022

Postpartum abortion, it was only ever a matter of time.

12 0

JM

John Mahoney OCTOBER 11, 2022

Immigrants are allowed to import their sick children into the country even if it costs millions to treat them

12 1

SW

Scott William OCTOBER 11, 2022

Soon they will say you should be or choose euthanized for wrong think

Just a slippery slope in a culture of death that gets normalized

Today it seems weird , but Tommorrow it's been normalized and by the end of the week your hesitation will be a distant memory.

And by the way Canada , you already do euthanize babies

Completely healthy and happy and warm and comfortable loving and wanting your love babies for gods sake

EDITED

11 1



Natalie Harman OCTOBER 11, 2022

So Canadian gov and health care system think MAID is the answer for everything? When can we sign up the politicians who are spending us into oblivion and taking our rights away?

11 0

ST

Sue Talun OCTOBER 11, 2022

MAiD, assisted suicide, euthanasia, eugenics, murder - call it what you will, it's out of control in Canada. We've seen too many reports of abuses: veterans with mental health issues stemming from their service being encouraged to commit suicide; elderly people being pressured into choosing death; and now this sicko suggests killing infants who don't conform to his standards. It has to stop.

10 2

SO

Shaun O'Sullivan OCTOBER 11, 2022

Message from the Irish to: Quebec College of Physicians.

Dr Louis Roy the "Grim Reaper" of newborn babies.

"Yer a bloody useless toe rag with the IQ of a concrete block" and here's why

Stephen Hawking was regarded as one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists in history and there's you and yer dunderhead cohorts running rampant all over the hospital delivery room. And it's kill the unborn, kill the new born, kill the disabled toddlers, kills the disabled teens and adults.

Please step forward Dr. King Louis XIV

The baby's name is Stephen and his future looks bleak. Thumbs up or thumbs down Dr. Roy?

And there he was a mangled mess of humanity yet one of the greatest minds to grace this earth.

Professor Stephen Hawking received thirteen honorary degrees. He was awarded CBE (1982), Companion of Honour (1989) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2009). He was the recipient of many awards, medals and prizes, most notably the Fundamental Physics prize (2013), Copley Medal (2006) and the Wolf Foundation prize (1988). He was a Fellow of the Royal Society and a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Louis Roy:

One Tim Hortons Participation Ribbon.

3 REPLIES 10 1

3

SHOW OLDER REPLIES



Karin Bougie OCTOBER 11, 2022

I've known people with severely ill and disabled newborns.

They died anyway.

Do you let them suffer for months, or do you let them go peacefully with MAID?

As it is with my answer to most things, it's none of any one's business but the family.

10 REPLIES 10 8

10

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

SB

SHELDON BENG OCTOBER 11, 2022

When you mix health care and medicine and doctors with killing you no longer have health care, medicine, and doctors.

Everything going on these days is absurd. You cannot overstate it. We are living in a post truth world. Killing innocent human beings is no longer murder. When we said it was okay to abort unborn human beings we exposed how corrupt the prevailing culture was. I remember Henry Morgentaler back in the 1980's and his sick take on human life. When will this slippery slide finally come to an end? The cult of death, the smug vanity, cruelty, heartless, monstrous evil will steam roller over many lives before this is

over. I fear for the next generation. They have no belief in God, no grounding for right and wrong, no love, no compassion, no truth, and no hope. Perhaps there are a few?

👍 9 🗨️ 0

GM

Giovanni Muraca OCTOBER 11, 2022

This is beginning to sound more like the eugenics of Nazi Germany!

1 REPLY 👍 9 🗨️ 0

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

JM

Jim MacDonald OCTOBER 11, 2022

Weren't these same guys just saying doctors should be fired for not doing everything possible to save those suffering with COVID?

1 REPLY 👍 9 🗨️ 0

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

BT

Brian Trafford OCTOBER 11, 2022

"Assisted death or suicide isn't even the right word for what's being described here. A baby cannot consent, a baby cannot decide they want to end their own life, it's not about any kind of 'choice' or 'autonomy.' It's straight up infanticide," wrote Woodfinden."

Infanticide is such a strong word Mr. Woodfinden. It makes it sound like what's being suggested is that children be killed at the request of parents (including poorly informed, or even deliberately mislead parents) and doctors... oh wait... that is what is being suggested.

1 REPLY 👍 8 🗨️ 0

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

EH

Ed Harding OCTOBER 11, 2022

Having seen the medical establishment become complicit in the covid cabal's diktats, and participate in the villification, demonization and punishment of questioning scientists and medical professionals faster than the despicable despot hides in his cottage...the pronouncements of any part of that establishment have to be treated with caution and skepticism.

If we have learned anything in the past 3 years it is that our so-called "institutions" cannot be trusted.

1 REPLY 👍 8 🗨️ 0

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

SL

Salvi Luker OCTOBER 11, 2022

Canada is about to become Nazi Germany.

👍 8 🗨️ 1

SW

Scott William OCTOBER 11, 2022

So if you can kill a disabled baby without its consent to eases some assumed suffering

Then when is the government bring back lobotomies??

Jonnys a little too high strung

Just a little adjustment , it's ok if it don't take, we can always rely on the euthanasia . EDITED

13 REPLIES 👍 8 🗨️ 2

13

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

PJ

Paula Jessop OCTOBER 11, 2022

This is murder plain and simple. What starts as a "choice" becomes a directive. More and more options and treatments will be defunded or just not offered until the choice for a family with child with a disability is between dieing at the hospital fast or struggling and dieing at home without palliative care. This is not mercy or compassion. No minor has the capacity to consent to this no matter now mature.

5 REPLIES 8 2

5

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

DM

David Milovac OCTOBER 11, 2022

So, medical experts are running amuck?

Who would have guessed it given our covid experience.

Has the world not seen something similar back in 1943?

But hey, medical experts are the experts, what do we know? Right?

8 0

**Karin Bougie** OCTOBER 11, 2022

Just remember peeps. Just because you think you would never do this (although unless you haven't experienced it, you can't really know) you don't have to do it.

If you don't want an abortion (I could have never done it, but am pro-choice) don't have one.

If you don't like guns, don't buy one.

If you don't like pot, don't smoke it.

My point is, governments make all kinds of things legal and acceptable, but it doesn't mean you have to partake in them or even agree with them.

30 REPLIES 8 4

30

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

FF

Falcon Forester OCTOBER 11, 2022

4th to 7th trimester abortions.

The left is anti-human.

2 REPLIES 8 0

2

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

RM

Robert Moloney OCTOBER 11, 2022

Another example of how Canada is looking ever more like a particularly despicable regime that emerged in Europe during the 1930's, against whom our forbearers fought a bloody war to prevent this from happening here.

I know we are not supposed to say these things because we are glorious and self-righteously well-educated (so were they but whatevs), but it is a point of history that this is EXACTLY the type of thing they started out doing in the 1930's. They euthanized those who could not contribute to society or have "quality of life". Just like what is being recommended here in Canada today. First it was the severely handicapped (like Quebec's CoS is recommending), the psychologically ill, the very old and infirmed, etc. But just like all government programs it grew to encompass more and more "undesirables" until...well we know the disaster that it became.

Oh and by the way, Canadian euthanasia programs, cynically marketed as "MAiD" (how nice and helpful a maid is) are already in full swing and growing fast. We must "protect the healthcare system" we are told.

Canada is on a desperately slippery slope. A slope made all the more dangerous by the fact that we are not allowed to recognize historical parallels that are so obviously there.

They were bad. We are good. Problem solved....so the story goes. EDITED

8 0

CM

Christopher Moss OCTOBER 11, 2022

Shall we be shocked? It's an open secret that midwives and doctors have always given a severely malformed infant a quick end, usually by not feeding them. The grounds for this were based in the parents' suffering as much as the child's. Playing God? Absolutely - and a risky game to play back when the majority believed they had an eternal soul, but still it happened.

Informal (and thus illegal) MAiD has been part of medical practice forever. To an extent, leaving it as an underground practice that did not require the self-examination of deciding on regulations was reasonable, as long as individuals did not abuse it (and no doubt the infamous Drs Harold Shipman and John Bodkin Adams were not alone in their peculiar tastes).

Speaking for myself alone, I am not uncomfortable with the concept of ending a hopeless infant life. I am not talking about minor cerebral palsy or suchlike, but severe malformations like anencephaly, lissencephaly or worse (it is for good reasons that laymen are not allowed into pathology museums with specimens of what were once called 'monsters'. Most people have no idea just how nasty an embryological error can get.) There is the ruination of adult lives to consider, few can work with such a child demanding 24/7 care, and marriages generally don't survive it. Unpleasant as this is, it is more tolerable to me than allowing MAiD for older children, adolescents, and those adults with non-terminal disease. Were I involved (some of you will be glad I'm not) I would not approve such cases, and since our parliament has seen fit to deny a 'medical conscience' bill I suppose we will have a situation one day where a doc refusing to agree to kill someone will be sued for causing suffering. What a mad world we have made for ourselves.

1 REPLY

8

0

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

CB

Chris Bowdler

OCTOBER 11, 2022

Today a clear medical message from Quebec, tomorrow Trudeau liberals adopt it as policy.....disagree anyone?

2 REPLIES

7

0

2

SHOW OLDER REPLIES

DC

Debra Ciazynski

OCTOBER 11, 2022

It seems to me that MAiD without consent is the last threshold to cross. It transfers away the right of an individual to judge what quality of life is worth living for them personally. Does anyone believe euthanasia without consent would stop at babies once that threshold is crossed - because the same logic could be applied to anyone unable to communicate their will to live to others.

EDITED

7

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SW

Steve Williams

OCTOBER 11, 2022

What an uncaring nation we have become under the Trudeau Liberals. Their promotion of death in the womb not only in Canada but through their support of abortion through the United Nations with our tax dollars. Their bringing in of MAiD shows their disregard of any human being with health problems and now it appears that Quebec wants to further this by murdering the defenseless infants. Didn't Hitler do the same in Europe.

7

1

KB

Kis Brink

OCTOBER 11, 2022

The ethical nightmare once MAiD went this far was one that could have been avoided had the disabled been listened to. We have no business having euthanasia in a nation where the supports available if you are disabled have shrunk to nothing.

Looking at things the Netherlands do would be fine if we were a nation that had politicians conclude that by being disabled you need access to healthcare, housing and food. We are not that nation.

Expanding it when people are already opting in because of legislated extreme poverty and very poor access to healthcare. BC has had an administration fee for physio for most of my adult life. It ensures the insufficient physio compared to what I need costs too much for me to access. My MLA's fee is covered as part of her extended health .

I'm likely to go blind but I can't get glasses so my government is stealing my time left with correctable vision.

Until politicians stop being the cause of suffering and misery MAiD needs to be put on hold. Instead we have seen when doctors who had supported it become alarmed that issues like hunger are driving it someone else will be very willing as after all hunger is misery and misery is a major factor.

One of the children I did respite for while less disabled than the other 3 could have been allowed to die at birth due to the need for extreme medical intervention or she would die in a day or 2 from infection . Both

parents had to consent and when her mother changed her mind and viewed it not as a natural act to allow a child to die there was fury. She has in adulthood a very good quality of life. Trust funds smooth out the issues other disabled people with food and housing. Every kid I ever cared for had doctors heavily paint a hopeless picture . This is amorality.

👍 7 🗨️ 0



reynolds rothwell OCTOBER 11, 2022

the life of a child reduced to something similar to the life of a pet.

neither a baby nor a kitty-cat can agree to being 'put down'.

a pediatrician put on par with a veterinarian.

1 REPLY 👍 7 🗨️ 1

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES



Susie Rogan OCTOBER 11, 2022

What is with these 'advocacy groups' who are determined to see a baby suffer 'extreme suffering' with no chance that the pain can be 'soothed'? Take your religion and ideology and inflict it on yourself, that's fine. Leave the babies out of it.

Friends of mine had a baby that was born missing some chromosomes. He was blind and deaf, which is one problem, but more concerning was the fact that he screamed and cried every waking moment. That poor kid's life was nothing BUT suffering and confusion. I don't know what ever happened with him. And I'm sure that is far from the worst of the scenerios out there. Keep your judgemental BS to yourselves. Babies cannot speak for their own interests but they can suffer just as much as adults can. Let their parents advocate and care for them, and sometimes the toughest decision of all is the best decision for that kid. Stay out of it. I respect the decisions of the parents and medical professionals, not the religious freaks and so-called disability 'advocates'.

9 REPLIES 👍 7 🗨️ 6

9

SHOW OLDER REPLIES



Denis O'Brien OCTOBER 11, 2022

This inevitable...since Trudeau and Cabinet brought back Germany's Aktion T4 Program....

👍 7 🗨️ 0



Andre Wasniewski OCTOBER 11, 2022

Well, if you are a climate fascist and think that the Earth is doomed if you do not get rid of a sizable chunk of humanity you have to start somewhere. Abortion without limits, assisted suicide, and legalizing infanticide, eliminating defenseless people first is a good start. But that exactly how the Nazis started: new born children with "defects", and mental patients. They never meant to atop.

👍 7 🗨️ 1



Murray S OCTOBER 11, 2022

This started as a response to painful terminal death. Now it's a response to more and more medical issues. At least these were doctors, not like the VA , where, I assume non doctors, were prescribing euthanasia to veterans. That should be against the law. Remember that euthanasia was one of the precursors to the h*!c**st.

👍 7 🗨️ 0



CONTENT DEACTIVATED

1 REPLY

1

SHOW OLDER REPLIES



Jennifer Thomas OCTOBER 11, 2022

The underlying assumption in forcing a very young child to be killed by lethal injection is that the child's death will be peaceful.

How do we know the child's death will be peaceful? Maybe it's our assumption that just because the child is small and vulnerable, he or she is too stupid to know what's going on emotionally and spiritually in the room.

Every young child I've ever met can tell the difference between adults who have genuine, heartfelt empathy and those who only pretend to care. You can be sure the children feel it in their bones when adults are conspiring to kill them.

If this isn't true suffering, I don't know what is.

7

0

DW

Dianne Wood

OCTOBER 11, 2022

Scary stuff. I thought we were told we were not going to go this far. MAID was only suppose to be for those near death and in uncontrollable pain.

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GS

Garth Sheane

OCTOBER 11, 2022

Oh, well do I remember the sneers from fellow readers years ago when I said MAID set us on a slippery slope. But, no matter. There is no going back, so enjoy the ride. How long do you think it will be before the death decision for mentally handicapped, people with dementia, etc. will be put on the slope?

3 REPLIES

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SHOW OLDER REPLIES

FS

Fritz Schulze

OCTOBER 11, 2022

My dad had Parkinson's and in the end he chose MAID. It was carefully controlled, dignified and a good solution to a very bad situation for a decent man. He had control over his own destiny. I can't say the infant has that control, however, who wants a lifetime of suffering and pain? The parents must ultimately decide.

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