A Not So Peaceful DEATH

With increasing prices of one commonly used suicide drug, doctors admit the alternatives have far from peaceful effects.
With the increased price of seconal, the standard barbiturate drug used in assisted suicides, proponents of assisted suicide have been recklessly experimenting on actual patients with alternatives to achieve death. Their goal: make suicide even cheaper than it already is. Kaiser Health News reports that the first drug cocktail they tried, “turned out to be too harsh, burning patients’ mouths and throats, causing some to scream in pain ... The second drug mix, used 67 times, has led to deaths that stretched out hours in some patients – and up to 31 hours in one case.” One of the pro-suicide doctors involved in this trial-and-error methodology, Dr. Carol Parrot, said, “Patients and families are told to expect sleep within 10 minutes and death within four hours. When it takes far longer, family members get worried, even distressed.”

And they should be! A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine reports that 1 in 5 Dutch patients attempting to use the standard barbiturates to kill themselves experienced complications including vomiting, inability to finish the medication, longer than expected time to die, failure to induce coma, and awakening from coma, i.e., they didn’t die. These new, haphazard attempts to replace barbiturates with something less expensive have apparently proven no less clinically problematic.

This revealing report credibly and totally undermines the main talking point of proponents that assisted suicide gives the patient a “peaceful” death.
SIX SUICIDE BILLS ALREADY DEAD IN 2017

Some States Pushing Measures to Limit Impact of Assisted Suicide

Bills to legalize assisted suicide in New Mexico, Indiana, Mississippi, Wyoming, Utah and Tennessee have already been defeated early in 2017.

- The New Mexico bill was defeated by a 22-20 Senate floor vote in a particularly hard-fought battle.
- The Indiana bills died in committee without a public hearing.
- The Mississippi bill died in committee.
- The Wyoming bill was drafted and given a bill number but not introduced and is dead for this legislative session.
- The Utah bill had a public hearing and was then voted down by a 9-3 vote of the committee. The bill was not lifted from the table at the following committee meeting, so it is defeated for this year.
- The Tennessee bill was introduced by a legislator who would not ordinarily be in favor of such a measure. He subsequently realized his error and withdrew his bill, rendering the bill dead for 2017.

In Maryland, the author of the Senate bill withdrew his bill due to lack of legislative support. While it appears that Maryland can be added to the defeat column, there is still a House bill that is being monitored.

A few states which have legalized assisted suicide are starting to push back. Washington State is considering legislation to strengthen informed consent requirements for requests for lethal drugs. Oklahoma is pursuing a bill which would prohibit medical professionals from falsifying death certificates by claiming that the underlying illness, rather than assisted suicide drugs, was the cause of a patient’s death. In other actions, a newly-enacted Ohio law prohibits assisted suicide. A New York bill would prohibit insurance coverage for assisted suicide drugs.

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A PRIMER ON ASSISTED SUICIDE LAWS

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Help bring to light the real dangers of legalized assisted suicide to your capital and your neighborhood today!