



WELCOME, Mr. President

Patients' Rights Action Fund is happy to introduce JJ Hanson as our new president and leader in the ongoing fight against legalized doctor-assisted suicide.

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A LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN GREG PFUNDSTEIN

President JJ Hanson
Below: JJ and wife, Kris

Dear Friends,

I have some big news to share with you today regarding the future of the Patients' Rights Action Fund. I have resigned as president of PRAF, but I am not going far: I will continue my active involvement with the organization as chairman of the board. Stepping in to take on the position of president is **JJ Hanson**, who you may recognize from the video we produced earlier in the year telling the story of his battle with brain cancer (see: page 4).

After we released the video telling JJ's story this summer, JJ and I spent some additional time together. Happily, JJ's cancer seems to be under control. And, happily, JJ is strongly committed to advocating against the legalization of assisted suicide. After discussing the issue with him and listening to JJ's compelling story, it became clear to me that JJ's voice needed to be front and center in this

fight in the coming years. So I decided it was time for me to step aside.

As JJ takes on the role of president, the very capable **Matthew Valliere**, who many of you have met, is taking on the role of executive director. After a year as director of development, this is really just an acknowledgement of the actual scope of work Matt has managed at this small organization. I truly believe JJ and Matt will make a powerful team to lead PRAF to the next level.

And it couldn't come at a better time. As many of you know, **California passed legislation legalizing assisted suicide recently**. We and our allies in California are seriously considering an



attempt to qualify a referendum. And that's just California: **in 2015, 26 states had legislation introduced to legalize medical killing.** We stand to face serious fights in other big states like New York, where a bill was introduced by the Republican Senator from JJ's home district. As we continue to fight against the legalization of assisted suicide, we are working to build a coalition to push for real reform to end of life care in the US. There are real problems, problems that induce many to support suicide legislation, and if we fight only to defeat this terrible policy but do nothing to address these problems, shame on us.

Patients' Rights Action Fund was begun in 2013 because some of us knew this was going to

be a big issue in the coming years, but we had no idea how big it would be. **We have a tremendous amount of work to do, but I believe we have built a strong organization and an excellent team well positioned to carry the organization forward.** I will continue to be actively involved, as will our other board members as we make this transition. I can't thank all of you enough for your support these last few years.

Sincerely,



Greg Pfundstein
Chairman, Patients' Rights Action Fund



NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN CONNECTION

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EXCERPT: **DAILY** **NEWS**

Former Political Aide to Lead Fight Against Assisted Suicide

KENNETH LOVETT, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

ALBANY — A former aide to former Govs. Eliot Spitzer and David Paterson is set to help lead the fight against a bill to legalize physician-assisted suicide in New York State.

J.J. Hanson, who last year was diagnosed with brain cancer, is now president of the Patients Rights Action Fund, a group opposing assisted suicide efforts nationally.



JJ Hanson and family

"New York is a key area where we're going to fight and try to defend and not allow this to become the social norm," said Hanson, who at one time supported the Death With Dignity Act.

Hanson, a 34-year-old former Marine who is married with a young son, served as director of regional affairs in the mid-Hudson Valley under Spitzer and then Paterson from 2007-2010.

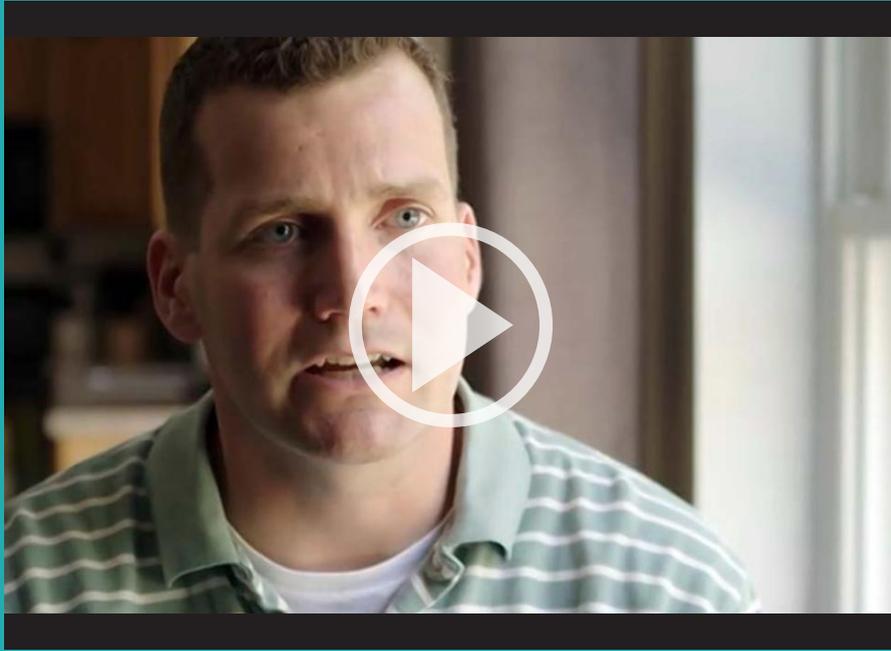
He was diagnosed in May 2014 with glioblastoma, the same type of brain cancer as Brittany Maynard, the terminally ill California woman who became the public face of the "right to die" movement in 2014 when she moved to Oregon to end her life under that state's Death With Dignity Act.

"I saw it as a bad example for others who had this form of brain cancer," Hanson said of Maynard. Twice, he said, his doctors told him his time was short, but a third opinion and subsequent surgery has him successfully managing the disease.

See full article at www.nydailynews.com

#canthurtsteel

Visit www.patientsrightsaction.org to watch JJ Hanson in action



"My family has had a motto... Someone would complain...and my dad's response would be: You can't hurt steel."

The motto became a movement in 2014 when JJ Hanson was diagnosed with cancer. The story of his family's fight against his fatal diagnosis was documented by Patients' Rights Action Fund in this powerful video.

Meet our new president and very own "man of steel" online at www.patientsrightsaction.org.