

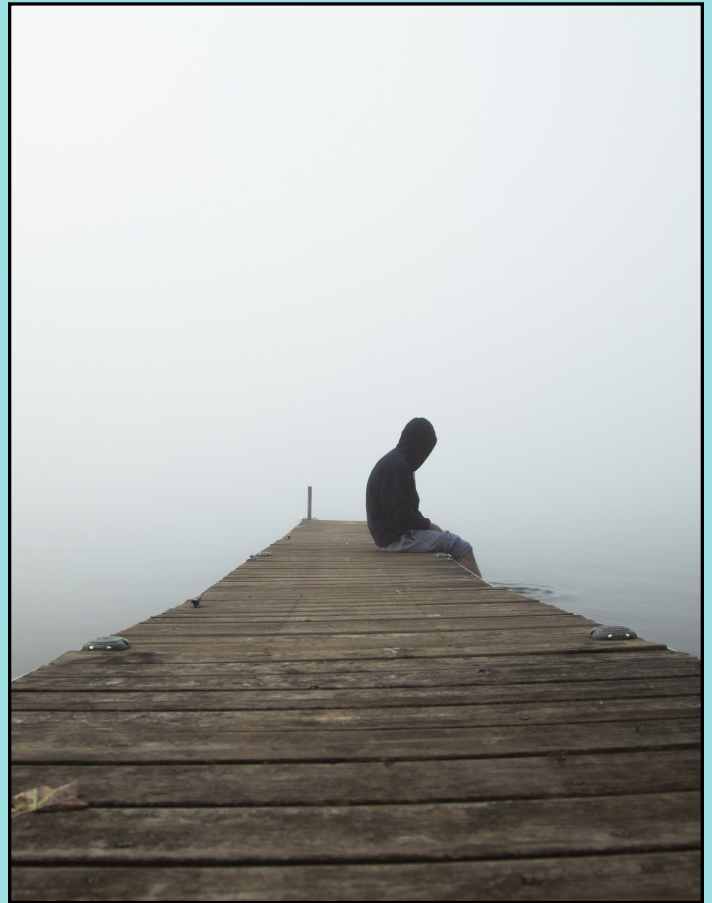
Assisted Suicide: People Abused and Exploited

Anonymous Patient: Assisted Suicide Abandons Some to Depression and Fear

"Thus, the challenge for doctors is to find out what is behind the patient's request to hasten death, and address it. Yet, where assisted suicide is legal, such a request begins a legally sanctioned process. The depression remains undiagnosed, and the only treatment consists of a lethal prescription."

A woman in her mid-fifties requested assisted suicide from her cardiologist, and after a third referral, was told that with more than six months to live, she was ineligible to receive the lethal drug prescription. Rather than explore her repeated request for assistance in suicide, she was sent home. Tragically, she died by suicide the next day.

Assisted Suicide laws fail to promote meaningful patient assessment, thereby abandoning some patients when they need the most support.



N. Gregory Hamilton, Oregon's Culture of Silence, in *The Case against Assisted Suicide: For the Right to End-of-Life Care*, supra note 2, at 175, 188.

National Council on Disability Report, 2019, p. 24 https://patientsrightsaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NCD_Assisted_Suicide_Report_508.pdf