

Assisted Suicide: People Abused and Exploited

Jackie Bieber: Suicide Prevention Messages are Undermined

“Assisting a suicide should always be considered as wrong. Societal efforts to downplay assisting a suicide add another layer of encouragement to people like my daughter, Shawn, who become an unfortunate victim.”

Shawn struggled with severe depression and social anxiety for several years, before taking her own life with the instruction and encouragement of a suicide website. The site claimed to be a completely neutral zone for discussion of suicide, but the chatrooms were a guidebook for how to take your own life. The chatrooms reveal that persons struggling with suicidal ideation often see doctor-assisted suicide and euthanasia as an affirmation that taking one’s own life is the preferable solution to their suffering. They also reason that if lethal drugs can be prescribed and taken for physical pain, they should also be available for mental pain.



Suicide Prevention organizations have worked for decades to bring awareness to the proliferation of suicide in our culture, and what we can do to prevent it. Legalizing assisted suicide completely undermines this effort.