

Assisted Suicide: People Abused and Exploited

Michael Freeland: Received a Lethal Script Despite a History of Attempted Suicide

“Oregon’s flimsy safeguards do not protect people with psychiatric and other mental health disabilities.”

Despite struggling for forty-three years with acute depression and suicidal ideation, Michael Freeland received a lethal script for Oregon’s assisted suicide drugs. His physician did not think a mental health evaluation was “necessary.” Fortunately, Mr. Freeland was offered improved medical care and suicide prevention services, forgoing use of the drugs and dying a natural death.

Only 4% of all patients who received assisted suicide drugs in Oregon were referred for a psychiatric evaluation. But for even those patients we see--a psychiatric evaluation is no safeguard at all.

