

# Assisted Suicide: People Abused and Exploited

## Brianna Hammond: Assisted Suicide Steals Away Autonomy

*"As a disability-rights advocate, I am concerned about choice, self-determination and bodily autonomy and that is why I am opposed to the legalization of doctor-assisted suicide."*

Brianna Hammond has a chronic disability and depends on life-preserving treatments. Although there is no cure for her condition, pain relieving medications and other treatments that ease her condition are invaluable and help her live her life to the fullest. Her fight for proper care is a constant battle against: biased medical professionals who look at her wheelchair and speech device as signs her life is not dignified, and insurance companies who wish to cut costs. Brianna acknowledges that, even as a fighter with a supportive family, there are times when the constant fight for care and the need to defend her own dignity deeply discourages her.

Oregon reports reveal that patients request assisted suicide because of



untreated disability-related concerns. Brianna knows that legalizing assisted suicide in her state will simply limit her autonomy by depriving her of medical choice. Public policy that puts her autonomy at further risk when it is hard fought for to begin with is irresponsible public policy.