

Assisted Suicide: People Abused and Exploited

JJ Hanson: Fear of Being a Burden often Drives Requests for Assisted Suicide

"If I'd had suicide pills with me in my nightstand during my 5 months of treatment, I might have taken them, and you can't undo that."

Marine Corps war veteran and New Yorker, JJ Hanson, was 33 years old and married with a one year old son when he was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. The doctors told him he only had 4 months to live.

Thankfully, he didn't listen and ended up having 3.5 more good years together with his family, during which time they created priceless memories and welcomed a second son into the world.

But if assisted suicide was legal at the time, JJ could have had the lethal drugs with him when he questioned if his family would be better off without him, fearing he was a burden to them.



Sadly, JJ is not alone. In 2019, 59% of Oregonians who died by assisted suicide listed “burden on family, friends/caregivers” as a reason. Assisted suicide laws abandon vulnerable patients who can experience depression at any point following their diagnosis.