

ASSISTED SUICIDE LAWS

CHEAP SUBSTITUTE FOR CARE



STEPHANIE PACKER'S STORY

“I was stunned that much cheaper lethal drugs would be available to me rather than treatment to save my life, but fortunately, I eventually received coverage for the treatment I sought.”

When in 2016 Stephanie, 32 and a mother of 4, was diagnosed with scleroderma, the doctor gave her three years to live. Since 2016, Stephanie has been in and out of hospice, intermittently qualifying for assisted suicide laws. When she requested that her insurance company help cover a new treatment for her disease, they denied her request, but upon being asked, reported that they would cover a lethal dose of drugs for a \$1.20 copay under California’s assisted suicide law.

Assisted suicide laws incentivize insurance companies to offer coverage for the cheaper option — a lethal dose of drugs — rather than more expensive treatment to prolong life and ease attendant pain.