DANGERS OF CONJOINING ORGAN HARVESTING WITH EUTHANASIA & ASSISTED SUICIDE

Conjoining assisted suicide and euthanasia with organ harvesting, a concept once thought ghoulish and inconceivable, is now being painted as responsible and enlightened. This adds pressure to vulnerable patients who could be led to feel selfish for continuing their lives.

**CANADA**

In Canada, patients who have been approved for euthanasia are contacted by organ donation organizations.1

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are given new status by creating an altruistic motive to ask for death. “Ontarians who opt for medically assisted deaths (MAiD) are increasingly saving or improving other people’s lives by also including organ and tissue donation as part of their final wishes.”2

Trillium Life Network, which administers Ontario’s organ donation program, became “the first jurisdiction in the world to proactively reach out to those who had been approved for assisted death to discuss donation.”3 Quebec soon followed suit.

**EUROPE**

In the Netherlands and Belgium, individuals with mental illness who could live indefinitely, are asked to donate organs after being euthanized. Their instability makes them a most vulnerable population for organ harvesters to prey upon.

**UNITED STATES**

In the United States, proponents of assisted suicide claim that organ harvesting is not occurring in our country. This has not prevented major medical publications from publishing articles advocating for the practice.

The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation in 2019 published an article advocating that removal of a beating heart should be used to accomplish euthanasia in order to preserve organs slated for transplant.

2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
5 https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamasurgery/article-abstract/2769118