

## Ariana Costa

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Q. What does assisted suicide have in common with abortion, marijuana legalization, transgender propaganda and the expansion of legalized gambling?

A. They all do harm to the vulnerable.

With abortion, it is the innocent child in utero but also the frightened, often pressured mom. With transgender propaganda, it is the sexually dysphoric who may later regret decisions they made but things like the scars where breasts once were remain. With marijuana, it is young people whose brains get messed with and the lives lost in marijuana-related traffic fatalities. With gambling expansion, it is those with an addiction to gambling.

**With assisted suicide, it is often the lonely and the depressed.**

**Mark my words: it is about the vulnerable.**

This bill comes out of not an appreciation of an ordered liberty or the common good but a perverted sense of human autonomy; as if what one wants is the only thing that counts. It may be what Isaiah was referring to when he said "I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices..." or the author of Judges who said that "in those days, there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

**This bill is a good bill for insurance company profits but not for the vulnerable; particularly the lonely and the depressed.**

The insurance companies will save on medical service reimbursement costs. But often lonely and depressed persons have bought the line that they are a burden to society instead of precious treasures. Under this bill, they would be offered assisted suicide ratifying that notion.

The bill is also dishonest and it enables dishonesty. The drafters had the nerve to expect us not to construe physician actions under this bill to be assisted suicide at all.

The bill simply declares that physician lethal prescriptions as not assisted suicide.

Poof! Reality does not disappear with a few words from the legislative drafter.

Presumably, physicians signing death certificates will be free to indicate that the person died of what they were diagnosed with.

But they will not have died of that.

They will be dying because someone assisted them in committing suicide.

Promises of strict safeguards for assisted suicide are about as dependable as the notion that marijuana legalization would significantly abate the black market for pot. The taxes attached to legal pot distribution have effectively raised the price inducing marijuana users to shop illegally elsewhere.

If you pass this bill, mark my words. It will be little time before advocates will seek to liberalize it at the cost of more innocent lives.

So, let us treat pain and depression and not kill those in pain or the depressed. Let us make pain management education more available to physicians.

Let us reject a societal vision where people are disposed of and promote one more in keeping with loving accompaniment in their final days.

Instead of legalizing the killing of the terminally ill, let us give family members standing to request injunctions to prevent their loved ones from being killed and legal standing to bring law suit against those who assist in the killing of their loved ones. And let us say a big fat "no" to more killing.

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