

Should assisted suicide be authorized in France as is the case in the United States?

(AXE innovation scientifique et responsabilité)

Assisted suicide is legal in five US states (Oregon, Washington, Montana, Vermont and California). But this is not allowed in France. So, should assisted suicide be authorized in France as is the case in the United States? Some arguments contribute to make euthanasia a relevant option, but some voices question the ethical aspect of this practice.



On the one hand, this allows the patients to choose the time and conditions of their death, especially in the case of incurable diseases, he can die with dignity. Indeed, for people suffering from serious and incurable diseases, this practice allows to shorten their suffering. For instance, people with cancer or cystic fibrosis. Some diseases make patients unable to move, communicate or even feed themselves, so it's understandable that these people prefer to die. There are also financial benefits: money used for someone who is terminally ill and wants to die, can be used to cure other patients who want to survive or looking for drugs that can help cure other diseases. Last wishes should be respected. It would also reduce suicide attempts that might fail and worsen their condition.



In France, the Léonetti law of April 22, 2005, prohibits therapeutic overkill, that is, any treatment intended to artificially prolong a person's life. The person at the end of life can oppose treatments but if they

result in the end of life of the patient. So, for some people, euthanasia would not be necessary since palliative care exists. These reduce the symptoms of a disease without acting on its cause. In addition, this can lead to drifts and excesses. Indeed, can euthanasia concern AIDS patients, the physically or mentally handicapped? Moreover, the legalization of euthanasia would place a heavy responsibility on the physician who must administer it to the patient. Euthanasia is a cruel and difficult act for the patient's family.

All in all, euthanasia is an important debate in our society. Euthanasia is allowed on animals which are about to die, why don't we show the same compassion for human beings?

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