

EPC Maryland Statement .pdf

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Position: UNF

We, the disability rights advocates, doctors and lawyers on the board of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition USA strongly oppose HB0403 and urge legislators to invest time and resources into improving palliative and home care instead. Passing this bill enables a movement that is harmful to people with disabilities, to members of other marginalized communities and to the medical profession. Please consider the following facts:

- -The American Association of Suicidology made a 2017 statement saying that “MAiD” was not suicide. But in 2023 the AAS had to retract that statement <https://suicidology.org/2023/03/08/aas-update-on-previous-statement/> because it was used in the 2019 Truchon decision that expanded assisted suicide to disabled Canadians. <https://twitter.com/TrudoLemmens/status/1666067817035190272> , which was opposed by the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention. <https://suicideprevention.ca/media/statement-on-recent-maid-developments/> The consequences of the AAS’s statement are an example of how green lighting assisted suicide for the terminally ill easily results in violence against people with disabilities.
- -In 2021 the United Nation’s Special Rapporteur on the Rights of People with Disabilities released a statement that even assisted suicide laws that are limited to the terminally ill violate its Convention on The Rights of People with Disabilities <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/01/disability-not-reason-sanction-medically-assisted-dying-un-experts>
- -Compassion and Choices has acknowledged that an eating disorder specialist published a case study about suggesting “MAiD,” to people with eating disorders and helping them carry it out, (<https://psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176/appi.pn.2022.11.9.4> , <https://www.compassionandchoices.org/news/colorado-response>), but then its representatives say that these laws have never been abused. So, has the law been abused or not?
- -Harvard and Stanford Medical Schools disgustingly invited the director of Canada’s euthanasia program to come talk to them about how much she loves her job killing disabled people; her book is readily available at booksellers across the country. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LtysjDKxmLg&t=8s&pp=ygUmSGFydmFyZCBNZWRpY2FsIFNjaG9vbCBzdGVwaGFuaWUgZ3JlZW4%3D>, Spotify Podcasts) Regardless of what any individual may want, passing these bills rewards and empowers a global network of people whose actions are undermining suicide prevention for people with disabilities.
- -Well-known right to die leader Thaddeus Mason Pope has tweeted that he thinks it’s good for disabled people to die by suicide. <https://twitter.com/ThaddeusPope/status/1669450726831976449> The director of Compassion and Choices appeared on Dr. Phil with Thaddeus Mason Pope in January of 2023.
- -Disabled people already experience a higher rate of suicide than the general population and peer-reviewed research indicates that people are more likely to think suicide is acceptable if the victim has a disability. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26402344/> Passing these laws clearly further normalizes the sentiment that disabled people’s suicides might be a good thing, and that is a monstrous way for society to bully people in the disabled community.

Vigilantly safeguarding equality and justice for people with disabilities as a group and ensuring that people with disabilities retain equal access to life-affirming medical treatment in the long term is more important than the proponents’ individual autonomy. Do not erect the scaffolding for the right to die movement’s broader agenda by passing this bill.

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