



The Truth About Assisted Suicide

MYTH	FACT
Unbearable pain is the major reason people choose Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS).	“As in previous years, the three most frequently mentioned end-of-life concerns were: loss of autonomy (91.4%), decreasing ability to participate in activities that made life enjoyable (86.7%), and loss of dignity (71.4%)” ¹
PAS is about freedom and personal choice. It is opposed mainly by religious busybodies.	PAS is opposed by pro-choice progressives like Victoria Kennedy ² & Ira Byock ³ ; advocates for people with disabilities ⁴ ; and the AMA ⁵ .
PAS can only be used by mentally competent people with six months or less to live.	One study found that 17% of patients outlive prognosis ⁶ . 3% of patients who died using Oregon’s law in 2014 were seen by a psychiatrist ¹
PAS is not the same thing as “Aid in Dying” or “Death with Dignity.”	These terms were rejected by the judge in <i>Blick vs. Connecticut</i> ⁷
People will be forced to spend their last days in hospitals hooked up to machines without PAS.	There’s an important difference between “letting nature take its course” and PAS.
Patients must be able to take the drugs themselves.	“Self-administer” is often defined simply as the “act of ingesting” ⁸
Having two doctors approve a request for PAS is an airtight safeguard.	It is easy to go “doctor shopping” – in some cases primary physicians are ignored ⁹
Having two people witness the signing of a request for PAS is an airtight safeguard.	An heir or beneficiary could recruit two friends (and no witnesses are required at death) ⁸
Years of study have found no cases of abuse of PAS.	Media have uncovered many abuses. Victims include Kate Cheney, Wendy Melcher ¹⁰ , Barbara Wagner, Randy Stroup, ¹¹ Thomas Middleton ¹²
Public support is overwhelmingly in favor of PAS.	Only 3 states have legalized PAS; it has been rejected over 140 times in 27 states ¹³ ; the most detailed polling in CT shows 55% oppose ¹⁴

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14. Morales, Murllet. “Strong Opposition to Assisted Suicide Bill in CT: Poll.” *Darien Patch*, 13 March 2014. www.patch.com/connecticut/darien