

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Joseph Hoydilla <xallidyoh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 6:46 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Aid to Dying

My name is Joseph Hoydilla; I am from Middletown, CT and I support "Aid to Dying" after watching my father die helplessly from the ravages of skin cancer. After praying and meditating, it became painfully obvious to me that this is the most basic CIVIL, HUMAN and SPIRITUAL right. It deeply saddens me that many, many people are suffering from the bureaucratic, profit driven, self righteous, ego driven attitudes that prevent the peaceful exit of this life. I know without a doubt that society and history will judge us according to how we answer this call! Do we continue with the status quo and the mockery that is happening everyday to the people such as my father with our current system? Or do we have the courage to implement this NOW and stop the unneeded cruelty of lack of choice?

When my father was diagnosed with cancer and the progression was so aggressive, there was little time to react. The operations included the removal of his nose, and the rearrangement of his jaw. By the end he was blind in one eye, couldn't speak, had the most labored breathing was literally being devoured both on the inside and the out from this cancer. My father and I were Roman Catholic and we would have never believed in such a thing. Then his death happened and the process of rearranging my value system came to fruition. After this, I came to the conclusion that my God is loving and benevolent; and He would certainly not condone this type suffering. I continue to attend and participate in Mass weekly, with the disagreement of the Church's stance on "Aid to Dying" or as they call it suicide.

The opposition to this long overdue legislation knows there is very little in the way of arguing directly about a person having this CIVIL RIGHT. Intuitively I believe every person knows this choice at the end of life needs to be available. But the argument always comes back to the rights of the elderly and the disabled. The law in Oregon and Vermont deal directly with this by creating a very extensive process; but the most important key points are they must be mentally competent, have two doctors signing off and have six months or less to live. This is simply not intellectually honest. We believe that everyone needs to be protected from abuse including folks like my father. It's insulting that we would even have this argument.

I would finally like to point out and not purposely offend anyone, but who are you? Who is the Catholic Church with their years of inner conflict and turmoil to know how I die and what's best for my family? Who are the politicians who have close ties with pharmaceutical companies to make this decision for me? Who is anyone other than ME to choose how I leave Planet Earth? Have you ever walked in my shoes? Who are we to tell someone who has risked his life for our great country that he is not capable of making this most basic decision?

Thank you so much for taking the time to listen. I am hoping we correct this societal ill such as Jim Crow or women having the rights to vote.

Joseph Hoydilla

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