

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

Dear Friend, June 30, 2022

Thank you to all of our monthly donors who make our work possible. In the past few months some of our monthly donors have passed away or lost gainful employment. Monthly donors are the life-blood of our organization. Please consider becoming a monthly donor by credit card or pre-authorized debit.

Every year, donations slow down in the summer. This year, can you make a special summer donation?



Amy Hasbrouck (pictured at left) has been President of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) for many years. Amy is a disability rights activist and a recovering lawyer, who volunteered as EPC President. I am thankful to Amy for her direction and for the many hours of commitment that she has given to EPC. Amy will continue to be a board member.

Gordon Friesen, a disability rights activist and writer from Montréal, agreed to become the new EPC President. Gordon has written many articles and submitted briefs to government committees. He has been a board member for several years and will be a great president. Kristina Hodgetts will continue to be EPC Vice President.

EPC-USA (www.epc-usa.org) is chaired by Sara Buscher, a retired lawyer and expert on issues related to elder care. Sara has been EPC-USA Chair for a few years and has followed all of the state-by-state legislation and court cases. Sara has indicated her intention to step down from her role in the fall and we are currently seeking a new chair.

Great news. A California federal judge, Justice Chhabria, rejected a legal challenge to permit euthanasia within California's assisted suicide law. Assisted suicide activist, Dr Lonny Shavelson, petitioned the court to permit (lethal injection) euthanasia for people with disabilities who have difficulty self-administering the lethal assisted suicide drugs. California legalized assisted suicide in 2016 but the law prohibits killing people by euthanasia, which is homicide (murder). In his decision, Justice Chhabria found that allowing euthanasia is not an extension of the assisted suicide law, as Shavelson argued, but it required the court to legislate a new law that creates an exception to homicide. Chhabria wrote that euthanasia fundamentally changes the law and it undermines the "protections" that exist in the law.

The Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying released an <u>interim report</u> on euthanasia for mental illness alone that only summarized the testimony to the committee. It is similar to the *Final Report* of the Expert Panel on MAiD and Mental Illness, where essentially no recommendations were made.

Québec's euthanasia expansion Bill 38 has been delayed until after the October 22 Québec election. Bill 38 would have approved euthanasia by advanced directive and forced all hospices to participate in euthanasia. We expect the bill to return after the election.

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There have been many stories uncovering the truth about killing people by euthanasia.

Last month I wrote about a BC woman who was approved for euthanasia. Due to her health and other factors, she had fallen through the cracks and was living in poverty. Compassionate Community Care (www.beingwith.org) and EPC arranged for some basic needs, for her laundry to be done and to receive a bath. This woman was the prime case of a person who needed help with living, not death by lethal injection.

Eric Coulam, a 20-year-old who lives in Fort St John, BC, was approved for euthanasia even though he does not have a diagnosis for his health problems and part of it is related to medical error. The article that I published about Eric received thousands of views. Eric's story emphasizes how legalizing euthanasia leads to people becoming convinced that death is an answer to their problems. The latest news is that Eric has a bucket list that he wants to complete before he dies. We hope that time will bring answers.

There is a woman in BC with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome who was approved for euthanasia even though she has been unable to obtain treatment. I communicated with her on Twitter; she stated that she lives with continuous pain and was seeking euthanasia to escape her situation. There is no cure for Ehlers-Danlos but symptoms can be treated. This woman has been seeking treatment for symptom relief for five years. I told her that (MAiD) would end her life, but not the battle for treatment, and that she would help others by continuing her battle rather than dying by euthanasia. The sad irony of her story is that she had no problem being approved for (MAiD) but she has been unable to get the treatment that she needs. This story emphasizes how <u>EUTHANASIA IS ABANDONMENT</u>.

Gabrielle Peters, a disability rights leader and expert concerning disability and Canada's euthanasia law, spoke at the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Peters' topic was: <u>Canada is NOT As Advertised. MAiD is Eugenics</u>. We need to listen to people like Gabrielle Peters.

The Netherlands' Health Minister recently announced the intention of extending euthanasia to children. EPC has been working with a group of leaders in the Netherlands who have successfully prevented child euthanasia. Canada's government euthanasia committee is also discussing extending euthanasia to children.

I have been invited to speak at a European Parliament conference on September 16 in Brussels, Belgium. EPC-USA has also been working effectively to prevent assisted suicide. A few months ago, they were the only group given standing to provide oral arguments at the Massachusetts Supreme Court in the *Kliger* case, a case that seeks to legalize assisted suicide in Massachusetts. EPC-USA has organized a national conference on October 15 in Connecticut. You can participate by Zoom or in-person (<u>register to attend in-person at this link</u>).

Your support makes it possible for EPC to work with other like-minded organizations to stop the killing. Thank you for your continued support. Monthly donors are the life-blood of our organization.

You can donate online at this link. To become a monthly donor, call 1-877-439-3348.

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director

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