Persuasive Speech on Euthanasia

Name

Institutional Affiliation
Title: The Reasons in Support of Euthanasia

Topic: The Ethics in Euthanasia

Specific Purpose Statement:

Thesis Statement: Euthanasia is often a divisive topic and the different interpretations of “What it means are dependent on an individual's view”.

Introduction

Euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide is one of the most controversial topics in contemporary healthcare. Around the world, many people have often voiced opinions on the acceptability of physician-assisted suicide. Many of these arguments and counterarguments are often based on deeply rooted personal and moral views (Rietjens et al., 2009). Religious beliefs also prohibit this action as it goes against the provisions of the Ten Commandments. However, certain circumstances over the years have convinced some countries and states into the legalization of the practice. I will begin by giving a brief history on legalization of euthanasia, then give the reasons to support euthanasia and the rationale behind physician-assisted suicide.

Body

1. The legalization of euthanasia is not a new concept. This protest can be traced back to the early 1900s.

2. In 1935, Killick Millard founded the voluntary euthanasia society. However, in 1936, the House of Lords voted against the bill.

3. In 1938, the euthanasia society was founded in America.
4. In 1997, the state of Oregon decriminalized physician-assisted murder.

5. In 2001, the Netherlands became the first country to legalize euthanasia followed by Belgium in 2002.

*Summary:* The history shows us how controversial the topic is and how long it took for it to be decriminalized in some countries.

*Preview:* Next, let us look at some of the reasons in support of euthanasia

1. A lot has been said about euthanasia and it being against ethical and moral practices. I will discuss two reasons as to why this practice should be decriminalized.

2. First, some of the people who want to be euthanized, suffer from chronic illnesses which have no cure.

3. Conditions such as lung cancer and Lou Gehrig's disease have left many writhing in pain in various palliative care facilities. This will prolong the patient's suffering and misery. The physician can also be subjected to criminal charges for passively prolonging the supportive life measures of a patient who is incapable of making his own decision. As such, patients suffering from degenerative, disabling, or debilitating conditions deserve the right to die with dignity.

4. The patients are coupled with the burden of inefficiency, apathy, and contempt for a life filled with pain and misery. As such, they opt for either active euthanasia, where the physician purposely gives a sedative overdose, or passive euthanasia, which involves with-holding life-sustaining treatment to allow the patient to pass away quickly.

5. Secondly, family members keep the patients alive in a vegetative state without their consent.
6. These patients do not want to become a burden to their families (De Bellaigue, 2019). Hence, cases of voluntary euthanasia have been observed in some of the states where it is legal.

7. Physicians, however, are tied through the principle vow of beneficence and non-malfeasance, which provides that they will not harm. They are supposed to help patients in immense pain, especially terminal ones, to ease through and reduce their suffering.

Conclusion

Overall, it is more human to allow a person with intractable pain and suffering to choose when and where to end that suffering. A survey by Chappel and Herheimer (2006) showed that many patients suffering from chronic illnesses want the freedom of choice to make decisions on when, where, and how they want to die. The adoption of this practice by some countries has ensured the right to die with dignity is upheld for anyone who might want to undergo euthanasia.
FINAL PAPER

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Thesis Statement: Euthanasia is a divisive topic, and each individual gives their interpretation; however, the torture that one undergoes during the pain and suffering illustrates the importance of why euthanasia is vital in healthcare.

Introduction

Over the past centuries, medicine has made incredible advancements that humanity has been able to treat many diseases that previously led to the deaths of many. Nonetheless, even with the progress, some diseases currently have no cure and continue to cause severe suffering to the patients. The incredible pain has led to the emergence of euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide, which is the act of terminating an extremely sick individual's life to relieve them from the pain or suffering. Euthanasia has solicited unending debate on its role in fields such as contemporary healthcare. Individuals base this debate on personal, moral, or religious views, making it difficult to come to an agreement considering the existing differences. Nonetheless, some nations have legalized the practice based on medical or human rights. Euthanasia is a divisive topic, and each individual will create their own interpretation; however, the torture that one undergoes during the pain and suffering illustrates the importance of why euthanasia is vital in healthcare.
Body

History

Protests against the legalization of euthanasia begun in the early years of the 20th century. Killick Millard founded the voluntary euthanasia society in 1935, but the House of Lords in 1936 rejected its bill. America would have its euthanasia society founded in 1938 (Dowbiggin, 2003). The state of Oregon decriminalized euthanasia in 1997, and the Netherlands would become the first nation to legalize the practice in 2001 (Kouwenhoven et al., 2019). Belgium followed closely in its legalization in the year 2003. Admittedly, euthanasia is a controversial topic as it deals with individual life, which is sacred. I believe that each individual has the right to choose how they want to live and die. Euthanasia grants the affected individual that right.

Reasons

Firstly, most patients who are undergoing extreme pain suffer from chronic diseases which have no cure. Conditions such as cancer and Lou Gehrig's disease cause excruciating pain among these patients. It even hurts that they get to reach stages where the situation cannot be reversed because most of the organs are failing to function. According to Math & Chaturvedi (2012), apart from the patient, those providing the care suffer the pain emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically. The use of life-supporting machines for a prolonged period only begs the question of whether the physicians are trying to save a life or reap off the already depleted finances. It would be prudent to let these people die in dignity and save each affected individual from the pain being caused. Dignity in death is achieved through euthanasia compared to the misery an individual experiences, not only from the physical pain but from the feelings of apathy, inefficiency, and contempt.
Secondly, most of these patients who are kept alive usually are in vegetative states which they have not given any consent. Sustaining life in a body that is terminally ill is cruel. Many of these patients hate being a burden to their families; that is why we need to provide them with their rights to die. Some may choose to sustain these lives with the hope that a cure may be found, but we are still torturing the patients for a continuous and undetermined time. Voluntary euthanasia leads to many benefits but most important is the ability to offer peace to these individuals. Legalization gives the medical practitioners the leeway to carry out euthanasia and cease the suffering.

According to Math & Chaturvedi (2012), the third benefit for the legalization of euthanasia is the fact that it encourages organ transplantations. Many of the terminally ill patients have organs that are functioning correctly but cannot be of use due to the ailments. Giving them the right to die gives another the right for life as long as consent has been sought. States are responsible for ensuring its individuals get the essentials of life. Legalizing euthanasia provides the life to many.

Undeniably, physicians have been tied to the principle vow of beneficence and malfeasance, which entails causing no harm to their patients. Offering an end to the misery that is not ending soon is a way that eases and ultimately reduces the suffering that one is going through.

**Conclusion**

Conclusively, euthanasia has justified reasons as to why it needs to be legalized. Individuals need to be open-minded to understand an individual, especially, at their terminally sick states. It goes beyond what one chooses to have their reasons based on. The patients need to
have an option to select the end of their pain and die in dignity. To this effect, no individual, nor the law should prohibit this option.
References

