

## DEBATE STRUCTURE (OPPOSITION - AGAINST THE MOTION: "THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT EUTHANASIA SHOULD BE LEGALIZED")

### Speaker 1: Introduction and Framework (5 minutes)

#### Speech:

- **Introduction:**

"Good day, ladies and gentlemen. **I'm here with....(Introduce your teammates).**

We stand against the idea that euthanasia should be legalized. Euthanasia is when a person's life is ended on purpose to stop their suffering. Some people think this is a kind thing to do, but we believe that it can cause more harm than good. We think that legalizing euthanasia would harm vulnerable people in society, like the elderly, the sick, and those with mental health problems. Today, we will show you why euthanasia is not the right choice and why we should look for other ways to help those who are suffering."

- **Explaining Key Terms:**

"First, let's make sure we understand what euthanasia is. Euthanasia means ending someone's life to stop their pain or suffering. This can be done by a doctor giving them medicine to make them die. Some people think this is a 'merciful' act, but we believe that ending someone's life is not a kind or helpful solution. Life is precious, and it should not be ended just because someone is suffering."

- **Overview of Our Arguments:**

"We will give you three main reasons why euthanasia should not be legalized:

1. **Moral Concerns (is it right or wrong to do it):** Euthanasia is wrong because we should never end someone's life on purpose.
2. **The Risk of Abuse:** If euthanasia is allowed, some people might be pressured into ending their life, especially the vulnerable (important) ones.
3. **Better Alternatives:** There are better ways to help people who are suffering, like better medical care and pain relief."

- **Ethical Concerns - Life is Precious:**

"Let's start with the **moral concerns**. We believe that life is valuable, no matter how much someone is suffering. Ending a life, even to stop pain, is wrong. Life should be protected, and no one should have the right to decide when someone's life should end. If we say it's okay to end a life when someone is suffering, it can make people think that life is not important anymore. We need to respect all human life and keep it safe."

- **Risk of Abuse – Vulnerable People:**

"The next problem is the **risk of abuse**. Some people in society are already in a weak position, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, or people struggling with

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mental health problems. If euthanasia is legalized, these vulnerable people might feel like a burden to their families or society. They could feel forced to choose euthanasia because they think it would be easier for others. But this is not real choice; it is pressure to end their life. No one should ever feel like they have to choose death just because they are struggling."

- **The Slippery Slope – The Spread of Euthanasia:**

"There is also a problem called the **slippery slope**. This means that once euthanasia is allowed for some people, it could slowly be allowed for more people. At first, it might only be for those who are very sick and have no chance of getting better. But later, it might expand to people who are not terminally ill, like those with chronic pain or mental health problems. We can't let euthanasia spread like this, because it can lead to people choosing death for reasons other than physical pain. We cannot take this risk."

- **Transition:**

"Now, let's talk about the third reason we oppose euthanasia, which is that there are better ways to help people who are suffering."

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### Speaker 2: Ethical Issues and Risk of Abuse (3 minutes)

#### Speech:

- **Ethical Concerns – Life is Sacred (sacred means something with much respect):**  
"As Speaker 1 mentioned, we believe that **life is sacred**. Every human life is valuable, and we should protect it at all costs. Even though someone might be in great pain, we cannot justify taking away their life. There are better ways to help them, like medicine to relieve their pain. Saying that it's okay to end someone's life because they are suffering weakens the value of life. It opens the door for us to say, 'Some lives are not worth living.' This is something we cannot accept."
- **The Risk of Pressure:**  
"Another problem is that vulnerable people, like the elderly or those with disabilities, could feel **pressured** to choose euthanasia. Imagine an elderly person who feels like they are a burden to their family because they can no longer take care of themselves. This person might feel like they should choose euthanasia to stop causing trouble, even though they might not want to die. If euthanasia is legalized, these people might feel they have no other choice but to end their life. This is not freedom; it's pressure."
- **The Slippery Slope – Expanding Euthanasia:**  
"We also need to be careful about the **slippery slope**. Once euthanasia is allowed for people who are terminally ill, it could slowly spread to others who are not terminally ill. People who are suffering from chronic illnesses, depression, or even mental health problems could eventually be allowed to choose euthanasia. This can lead to many people choosing to die when they don't need to, especially when there are better options available, like mental health treatment or pain management."
- **Conclusion:**  
"In conclusion, we believe that euthanasia should not be legalized because it is morally wrong, it can put vulnerable people at risk, and it is not necessary when we already have better ways to care for those who are suffering."

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### Speaker 3: Better Ways to Help and Respecting Beliefs (3 minutes)

#### Speech:

- **Better Alternatives to Euthanasia:**

"One of the most important reasons we oppose euthanasia is because we already have **better ways to help people who are suffering**. Instead of ending someone's life, we can give them better care. For example, there are many treatments that can manage pain and make people feel more comfortable. Medicine can help people sleep and ease their pain. This is called **palliative care**. It focuses on making people comfortable at the end of their life without taking away their life. We should focus on improving this care, not making it easier to end lives."

- **Respecting People's Beliefs:**

"Another reason to oppose euthanasia is that it goes against many people's **religious and personal beliefs**. Many people believe that life is a gift, and they feel that no one should decide when it should end. If euthanasia is legalized, we force people to go against their beliefs, and that's not fair. Everyone should have the right to live according to their own values and beliefs. By legalizing euthanasia, we would force people who believe in the sanctity of life to accept something they find morally wrong."

- **Conclusion:**

"In conclusion, euthanasia should not be legalized because there are better ways to care for the suffering, it goes against the value of life, and it disrespects people's beliefs. We need to find solutions that help people live with dignity, not end their lives. Thank you."

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### Reply Speech (3 minutes)

#### Speech:

- **Introduction:**

"Ladies and gentlemen, while the Proposition has argued for the legalization of euthanasia, we remain strongly against this motion. Let me quickly summarize why their arguments are not convincing."

- **1. Ethical Concerns – Life is Precious:**

"The Proposition argues that euthanasia should be allowed to end suffering. However, we've shown that life is valuable and should not be ended intentionally. Life is not something to be taken lightly, and we must protect it at all costs."

- **2. The Risk of Pressure and Abuse:**

"The Proposition has said that euthanasia would be a choice, but we've explained that vulnerable people, like the elderly and those with disabilities, could feel pressured to choose euthanasia. This is not true freedom. It is important to protect these vulnerable individuals from being influenced or pressured into ending their life."

- **3. Slippery Slope – Expanding Euthanasia:**

"The Proposition says euthanasia would only apply to terminally ill people, but we've shown that once it's allowed for some, it will likely spread to others, leading to even more people being encouraged to choose euthanasia for the wrong reasons."

- **4. Better Alternatives:**

"Finally, the Proposition has not given any strong reasons why euthanasia is needed when we already have better options, like pain relief and palliative care. These methods help people live with dignity without ending their lives."

- **Conclusion:**

"In conclusion, we believe that euthanasia is a dangerous and unnecessary practice. It harms vulnerable people, disrespects life, and goes against people's beliefs. We ask you to reject this motion and protect the value of human life. Thank you."