

Good morning, everyone.

We all know that people suffer a lot when they are haunted with fatal illnesses. So, many people want to legalize euthanasia, or mercy killing. Euthanasia is the practice of killing a person without pain who is suffering from a disease that cannot be cured. Due to the fact that practice often does not go align with anticipation, we are against the idea that euthanasia should be legalized. Reasons are as follows.

First, one's ideas change a lot and it's hard to distinguish between impulse and careful decision. We all have been through blue days, which doesn't seem that matter. But for a person with bad illness, those blue days may have a tremendous effect and lead to the thought of ending his life, which will be gone after the blue days. Some may argue that we can wait to see if he is going to change his mind. But how long? If you carefully think about that you will find out no matter how long we wait, we will still ask ourselves: would he pick up his hope for life if we wait one day longer? This will be a torture.

Second, we cannot truly eliminate coercion. Coercion means go against one's will. For instance, the Australian state of Victoria bans doctors from mentioning euthanasia to patients to avoid coercion, but the consequence is that many sufferers do not know that it is an option. But when we give people the right to tell sufferers that they can choose euthanasia, this right may be abused. Imagine there is a family with an old man who is sick. The sickness can be cured but it needs a lot of money and effort. Then do you think there is possibility that the relatives of the old man imply euthanasia when talking to him? So, there is an endless loop of avoiding coercion and making sure the patient is well informed.

Third, severeness estimation will be a huge problem. When the request of euthanasia is made, the doctor will give an estimation of how severe the illness is. But that estimation is not accurate. We have heard of stories that the doctor said someone can only live for a short time but eventually he lived much longer, like Stephen Hawking who was expected to die in 2 years when he was 21. And we have no way to make sure this will not happen when dealing with euthanasia, which means we will kill someone by mistake. Modern society cannot take that risk.

In conclusion, euthanasia can theoretically end one's pain, but in practice it will cause inevitable loss of life that could have been kept. So, taking into account the potential risk and dignity of life, we hold the firm belief that euthanasia should not be legalized.

Thank you.