The term euthanasia is derived from the Greek word meaning pleasant death. The question of ending a life in terminally ill patients has always been one of exploring murky waters, owing to the multi-faceted and complex themes it raises. Physician-assisted suicide is a controversial topic with a much-heated debate around different corners of the world, and different perspectives are offered both historically and presently. The definition of PAD implies that the patient self-administers medications prescribed by the physician with the explicit intention of ending their life to get relief from intractable suffering . In June 1997, the US Supreme Court unanimously ruled that there is neither a constitutional prohibition nor a constitutional right to euthanasia or PAD. The Netherlands became the first country to legalize euthanasia, albeit under strict regulations . The law specifies that the person must be enduring “unbearable and endless suffering” before undergoing euthanasia. While euthanasia is the only legal form of PAD in Colombia and Belgium. Physician-assisted suicide is the legal form in Switzerland and five regions of the United States (Oregon, Vermont, Washington, California, and Montana). Both are legally permitted in Australia, Victoria, Canada, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands . However, among middle-income countries, there is still controversy regarding its implication.

The Bulgarian Parliament has rejected a euthanasia bill by a vote of 59 to 13, with 29 abstentions.

Socialist MP Lyuben Kornezov had proposed a bill which would have allowed euthanasia if a patient made a notarised request. A spouse, adult children or parents could also make a request if a patient was not competent. A panel of three doctors and lawyers would review requests.

According to the Sofia Echo, Mr Kornezov said that euthanasia already had been legalised in some European countries, Japan, Oregon, Albania, Australia, Uruguay and Japan. (Mr Kornezov misinformed his parliament. Only in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg is euthanasia permitted. A few jurisdictions, like Oregon, allow assisted suicide.)

Bulgarian news agency BTA reported that other MPs were critical of the proposed law. GERB ruling party MP Daniela Daridkova said that the proposal was against Bulgaria’s constitution, laws and the physicians’ Hippocratic Oath. Vanyo Sharkov of the Blue Coalition said that it was doubtful that doctor would perform euthanasia. And Ataka’s Pavel Shopov said that it was possible to have choices, but not about matters that were the subject of Divine commandments. He quoted the sixth of the ten commandments, “you shall not kill”.

We wish that we can agree that killing people or letting them kill themselves or even letting a doctor kill someone on purpose can not be legal. The right to live is the most important right and under no circumstances should it be lawful to be violated by anyone.

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