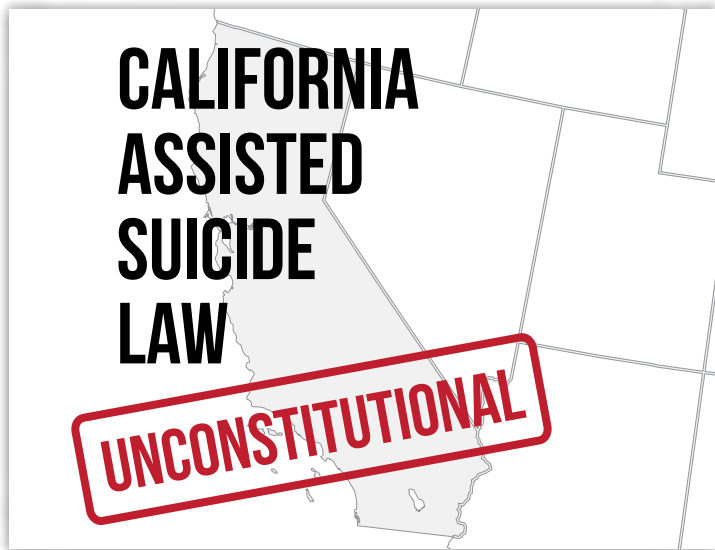


Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Newsletter

Number 197: June 2018



Great news! On May 15, Riverside Superior Court Judge, Daniel Ottolia, overturned the California assisted suicide law when he ruled that the legislature acted outside the scope of its authority when it enacted the End of Life Option Act.

California passed the state's assisted suicide law in a special health care funding session after the legislature [failed to pass the assisted suicide bill in its normal session](#).

Judge Ottolia [held that](#), "the End of Life Option Act does not fall within the scope of access to healthcare services," and that it, "is not a matter of health care funding."

California Attorney General, Xavier Becerra, filed an appeal of the decision to the 4th District Court of Appeal. According to the *LA Times* Becerra argued that:

The enactment fell within the scope of the special session called, in part, to consider efforts to "improve the efficiency and efficacy of the health care system... and improve the health of Californians,"

More great news! On May 23, the Fourth District Court of Appeals [upheld the lower court decision](#). Therefore at this time the assisted suicide law is not in effect in California. *NPR News* reported:

California's Fourth District Court of Appeals on Wednesday refused to stay last week's decision by the Riverside County Superior Court, which ruled

that state lawmakers should not have passed the law during a special session on health care funding.

Kaiser Health News reported on May 23 that:

An appeals court on Wednesday refused to block a court decision that said a California law allowing the terminally ill to end their lives was passed illegally. California's 4th District Court of Appeal refused to grant an immediate stay requested by state Attorney General Xavier Becerra. However, the court gave Becerra and other parties time to "show cause"—that is, provide more arguments as to why the court should grant the stay and suspend the lower court ruling. There was no immediate comment from Becerra's office.

The Court of Appeals stated in the decision that the majority agreed with denying a stay of the decision while the minority wanted to grant an immediate stay of the decision. Therefore the Court of Appeals gave "real parties" 25 days to file a formal return as to why a stay should be granted.

Compassion & Choices (C&C), an assisted suicide lobby group, states in their [press release](#) that the law remains in effect despite the court ruling.

I am convinced that C&C is baiting pro-assisted-suicide doctors to continue prescribing lethal drugs to enable them to create a legal challenge to the decision that correctly found that the California assisted suicide law is unconstitutional.

The law was declared unconstitutional based on how it was implemented and the Court of Appeals refused to stay the decision, therefore it is currently not in effect.

*Organize a screening
in your community!*

Purchase the DVD & companion pamphlet,
&/or book a speaker for your event:
call 1-877-439-3348 or email info@epcc.ca.

Assisted Suicide Bill Defeated in Guernsey!

On May 18, the Guernsey parliament defeated a proposal to legalize assisted suicide by a vote of 24 to 14. This is incredible news considering the resources that the assisted suicide lobby invested into passing the bill.

According to *The Guardian*, the proposal was based on the Oregon model.

A coalition of groups which formed to defeat the bill including disability rights groups Not Dead Yet UK and the Guernsey Disability Alliance as well as the British Medical Association and the Care Not Killing Alliance in the UK.

Dr. Wheatley from Assisted Living in Guernsey booked Kevin Dunn to address the audience after a screening of *Fatal Flaws*. We are happy to say that some members of the Guernsey parliament attended and one changed his position on assisted suicide after watching the film.

Dr. Saunders, Campaign Director for the Care Not Killing Alliance was quoted in the *Shropshire Star*:

We welcome this strong rejection of this dangerous proposition by the elected Deputies on the Island.

Parliamentarians across the UK have rightly rejected attempts to introduce assisted suicide and euthanasia ten times since 2003 out of concern for public safety, including in 2015 when the House of Commons overwhelmingly voted against any change in the law by 330 votes to 118.

We know the Deputies in Guernsey will now turn their attention to the real issues facing disabled people and the terminally ill on the island, ensuring equality of access to the very best health care available and how to fund this.



Kevin Dunn with Dr. Wheatley

Fatal Flaws Screening in Guernsey Helps Defeat Assisted Suicide Bill

By Kevin Dunn, Film Director

During the government debate there was a moving moment when Deputy Graham McKinley, after announcing he had seen the Fatal Flaws film on Alderney, and how moved he was by it, bravely explained why he was abandoning the Requete.

~ Dr. Carmen Wheatley

I had always hoped this film would be a game-changer. Looks like it is happening.

I've just returned from the Channel Islands, UK, where we had two screenings of *Fatal Flaws: Legalizing Assisted Death*. One in Guernsey and another in Alderney. These screenings happened just prior to a three-day debate and vote on assisted suicide. According to *The Guardian*, "if the Requete had passed, Guernsey would have become the first place in the British Isles to offer euthanasia for people with terminal illnesses." Instead they voted to improve palliative care on the island.

The sponsor of the screening, Dr. Carmen Wheatley, Orthomolecular Oncology Medical Researcher and Executive Director of Assisted Living, Guernsey, reached out to me a few weeks ago asking if I would come to the Island before the vote.

In an email Dr. Wheatley sent me today (May 18), she said that during the debate, a Deputy for Alderney revealed to all that he had seen your film there, had become very moved by the content, listened to the Alderney folk, and changed his mind. The other Requeteers were not expecting this final coup de grace. In a more formal statement, she wrote:

In spite of misrepresentations of the film by campaigners, who refused to view it, and a mysterious blockade on TV and radio interviews from the one person on Guernsey, Kevin Dunn, who not only lives in a country, Canada, with such death legislation, but has been to no less than six jurisdictions/countries, interviewing doctors, patients, families on both sides of the

...see Fatal Flaws on page 4

New Zealand Euthanasia Committee Delays Report by Six Months

On May 21, the New Zealand Justice Select Committee that is examining the euthanasia bill got a six month extension to submit its report because they received 35,000 submissions for consideration.

Radio New Zealand (RNZ) reported that 10% of the submissions included a request to present in person and the Committee intends to make this possible.

RNZ reported:

The committee's chair Labour Party member Raymond Huo said the hearings would enable as many individuals and community organisations as possible to be heard.

"The Justice Committee intends to hear from all submitters who have asked to be heard," Mr. Huo said.

Justice Committee deputy chair Maggie Barry said the number of submissions signalled the importance of conducting hearings.

"The very large number of carefully considered individual submissions reveals just how seriously New Zealanders take the potential change of law to allow euthanasia and assisted suicide," she said.



Raymond Huo



Maggie Barry

Several legislators have changed their position on the bill. [According to SBS News:](#)

The bill – drafted by the libertarian ACT Party – passed its first reading in parliament by 76 to 44 but may face a tougher time in the second, with some politicians and disability advocates raising concerns about whether it is too broad in its criteria.

Euthanasia Free New Zealand is working with many groups to oppose legalization.

Many international groups made submissions asking for an opportunity to present, including the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

Based on our experience, the more information that is given to legislators, the more likely they are to oppose euthanasia.

Finnish Parliament Rejects Euthanasia



The Finnish parliament (Riksdag) voted 128 to 60 to reject a citizens' initiative calling for the legalization of euthanasia.

While rejecting it, the Riksdag approved the establishment of a committee to study legislation oriented to care in the final stages of life, palliative care and euthanasia.

The Finland newspaper *Hufvudstadsbladet* (HBL) reported (via Google Translate):

With votes 128 - 60, the Riksdag decided to reject the citizenship initiative for euthanasia. However, the initiative contributed to the fact that care in the end of life is being subject to a comprehensive investigation.

The vote was preceded by a debate during Thursday's plenary, where the complexity of the question became apparent, but where a consensus among the parties of the Riksdag was noted that the issue of care at the end of life requires the attention of the legislators.

The social and health committee responsible for the consideration of the citizens' initiative had proposed in its opinion that the initiative be rejected, but put a squeeze on the setting up of a working group to investigate the legislative need for care in the final stages of life, for palliative care and for euthanasia. Starting an investigation was approved by the Riksdag.

The issue has not ended. [The citizens' initiative collected more than 50,000 signatures](#) in Finland.

Successful Fatal Flaws Screenings

...Fatal Flaws from page 2

The Premiere on May 8 in Ottawa of *Fatal Flaws* was a tremendous success! More than 100 people attended, most staying for the roundtable discussion that followed. We had another very successful screening in Worcester, Massachusetts, where more than 200 people attended!

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition urges you to organize a screening in your community. Simply [order the DVD and companion pamphlets](#) and promote the event. Speakers may be available upon request.

Many Premiere attendees had seen the YouTube previews featuring the stories of [Candice Lewis, a young woman with disabilities in Newfoundland](#) who was pressured by doctors to ask for euthanasia, and [Margreet from the Netherlands](#), whose mother died by euthanasia without consent.

The audience was moved by Helen's story, in the Netherlands, who saved her mom from euthanasia by pushing for a second opinion. People asked

Helen, "Why are you bothering? She's 94." Helen's reply: "It's my mom; don't take her away!"

They were also affected by the love stories of Nancy Elliott and Dr. Toffler. Nancy opposed assisted suicide as a New Hampshire representative. The legislature debated legalization while she was caring for her very ill husband. Nancy said:

It was pretty clear that the legislation was aimed at people like my husband, who, in their opinion, shouldn't be living.

Dr. Toffler speaks about the death of his wife:

If taking a massive overdose of medication to kill yourself is dignified, then what does it say for the majority of people who die naturally, like my wife, at home, peacefully with family surrounding her. She didn't take an overdose; so that's not dignified?

divide, this documentary deeply impressed those few Deputies and the larger public who saw it.

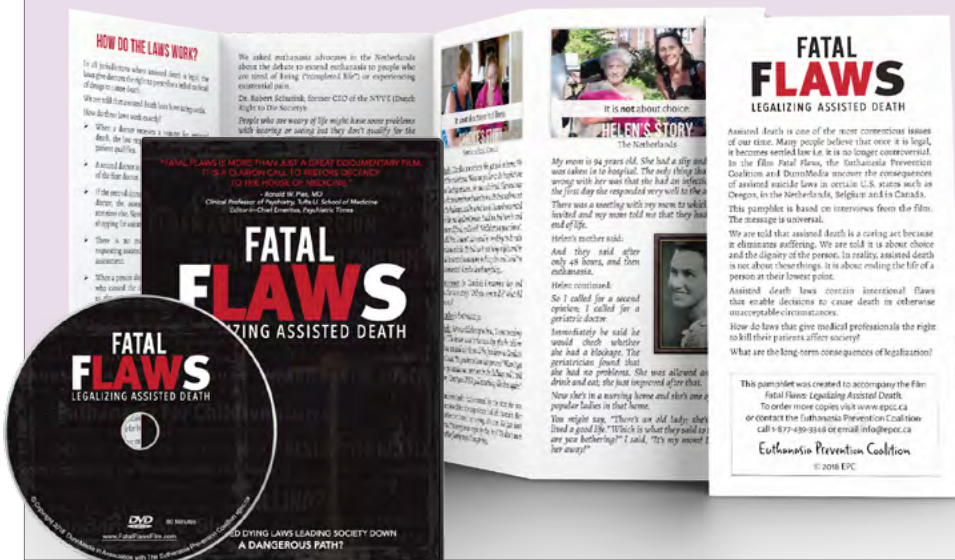
To the extent that one of two Alderney representatives, who had originally,—and probably against his better judgement, been one of the signatories of the Requete, found the courage shortly before the decisive vote to publicly and dramatically renege on his allegiance to the Requete, thus adding to the strength of the decisive final No vote.

In *Fatal Flaws*, I ask journalist Gerbert van Loenen from the Netherlands, "Who is telling the other side of the story?" He says, "I'm afraid no one."

Through the testimonies of so many brave and passionate people, we were able to do just that: tell stories of a highly underrepresented group of people and shine a light on a dark corner of the political and medical landscape.

What could be more important than saving the lives of the vulnerable?

Order the Fatal Flaws DVD and Pamphlets:



DVD: \$40 each or \$100 – 3
Pamphlet: \$40 – 100 / \$100 – 300

Discount pricing:
\$75 – 1 DVD + 100 pamphlets

With any *Fatal Flaws* order, order *The Euthanasia Deception* documentary for \$20.

Further bulk discounts are available upon request.

All pricing includes taxes and shipping.

Orders can be made online or by contacting the EPC directly.