

Assisted Suicide: People Abused and Exploited

John Kelly: Facing Deadly Discrimination

"I treasure my life now just as much as I did before my spinal cord injury 37 years ago. Yet individuals have told me directly that they would rather be dead than like me, while movies and TV show characters with my disability clamoring for death."

Described as "paralyzed from the neck down," John fights against the deadly cultural attitude of "better dead than disabled" promoted by assisted suicide laws. With relatively privileged people pushing for "Death with Dignity" for themselves, John has upheld the equal, inherent dignity of everyone as the foundation of a democratic society. Disabled and marginalized communities are threatened by an emerging elite consensus that more care for disabled and marginalized people is "futile" or "too expensive."

Insurance companies have already declined to pay for life-saving treatments and offered assisted suicide instead



Assisted suicide bills ignore solutions like fully-funded community-based home care, universal healthcare, and palliative care, which are much more needed than a lethal prescription.

John B. Kelly is the Director of Second Thoughts MA: Disability Rights Advocates against the Legalization of Assisted Suicide and the New England Regional Director for Not Dead Yet.

Unintended and Dangerous Consequences of Assisted Suicide: <https://patientsrightsaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/PRAF-Unintended-Consequences-Document.pdf>

