Euthanasia Dutch-Style

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase, president of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

Ten years ago, the Netherlands legalized euthanasia. A new report from the Dutch medical society says Dutch doctors who oppose euthanasia are obligated to refer patients to a doctor who is willing to help them die.

The report says euthanasia is illegal unless there’s a doctor involved and an underlying disease that is unbearable. Thus the law puts pressure on doctors to kill their patients in conflict with medical ethics. Plus the law has large loopholes.

For instance, even though there’s no unbearable suffering, doctors could instruct patients on committing suicide with stockpiled drugs. Doctors must also arrange palliative care if the patient decides to stop eating or drinking. Finally, just being elderly with progressive deterioration qualifies as “unbearable suffering.”

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