

I am the daughter of a parent with both Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. My mother is in her young 70's and her memory is fast fading and worse, causing miscommunication among myself and my siblings in pursuit of the common goal of her care. On any given day, she may not be capable of truth statements, correct recall, or accurate information about her abilities, which come and go with each hour's passing. I have worked in healthcare my entire career and I cannot affect her outcome - an inevitable demise.

My mother and patients like her should not be subject to another person's actions in withholding food and water until death occurs. This practice constitutes cruelty, neglect, and potentially an intent to end a life. It is a crime with regard to animals and it should remain a crime in regard to human life. We in Oregon seem to use our laws to eliminate the marginalized, the weak, the innocent, maybe even the poor, as evidenced by our policies on abortion and euthanasia. Our rivers run red with much human blood which should have been protected by our laws. Let's stop killing the most fragile members of this state by making it legal to do so. And legal or not, it is ethically and morally WRONG.

Thank you,  
Sharon Eppley