Sympathetic Perspectives Outline

I. Introduction
   a. Topic: Should Physician-Assisted Suicide be legal or illegal
   b. Becoming more popular, more states adopting legislature
   c. I want to spend some time with inherent issues....
   d. Main claim: “There are many different beliefs in the medical community about whether physician assisted suicide is ethical or a crime”

II. Map
   a. Is Death a natural right
   b. Is PAS ethically viable for a physician to participate in?
   c. Are there reasonable regulations for PAS?

III. Body
   a. first premise (sub-claim): “PAS provides patients with the natural right of death so that they may avoid suffering.
      1. Dying is such a right to a human as is the right to free speech.
      2. Support: “By adding a voluntary option to the continuum of end-of-life care, these laws give patients dignity, control, and peace of mind during their final days with family and loved ones.” Death with Dignity National Center
      3. Physicians morally just in PAS as they need to respect patient’s choice, compassionate
      4. Support: (Quote) “Proponents view physician-assisted suicide as an act of compassion that respects patient choice and fulfills an obligation of nonabandonment” - Lois Snyder, Annals of Internal Medicine
      5. PAS requires substantial mental exams in Netherlands, prevent unnecessary PAS
      6. Support: (Quote) “They have to be able to take the drug themselves. They must have the mental capacity to know what they are doing and what the consequences are.... And two doctors—an attending physician and a consulting physician—must verify that the patient meets all the criteria.” - Pete Jaret, Berkeley Wellness
   b. second premise (sub-claim): “PAS is unlawful as it directly opposes the moral obligation of physicians to not harm patients”
      1. PAS isn’t a real medical treatment, only a form of murder
      2. Support: (Quote) “No one would consider giving patients cyanide tablets or carbon monoxide to be medical care. Neither is misusing dangerous controlled drugs as poisons.” - Dr. Joseph Marine RealClear
      3. Physicians expected to heal, not harm. PAS makes doctors untrustworthy and opposing nature of physicians
      4. Support: (Quote) “Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician’s role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to
control, and would pose serious societal risks. Instead of engaging in assisted suicide, physicians must aggressively respond to the needs of patients at the end of life.” -American Medical Association

5. PAS legalization could lead to hospitals targeting the poor, little regulation

6. Support: (Quote) “The risks would be most extraordinary for individuals whose autonomy and well-being are already compromised by poverty, lack of access to good medical care, or membership in a stigmatized social group.” -New York State Department of Health

IV. Conclusion

1. “There are many different beliefs in the medical community about whether physician assisted suicide is ethical or a crime”
2. Some groups argue PAS is not a part of medicine, but is murder
3. Others argue PAS is an extension of medicine to help ease patient’s pain
4. Current debates don’t involve patient opinions, so what do you think?
5. Intended Stasis Point: Should PAS be treated as unethical or ethical from a physician point-of-view, considering it helps a patient be free from pain at the cost of their life.
References:

1. Dr. Joseph E. Marine, “Assisted Suicide is the Wrong Prescription” RealClear Health, (September 20, 2018) web
2. “Physician-Assisted Suicide” AMA web
6. “Death with Dignity Acts” Death with Dignity National Center