

“Montana’s Law Protected Me.”

I read the guest column, "People living with disabilities support death with dignity," which advocates for legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia for the disabled. I could be described as such a person and this opinion does not speak for me. I am strongly against these practices.

When I was in high school, I was on track to get a basketball scholarship to college. And then, I was in a car accident. The accident left me in a wheelchair, a quadriplegic. In addition to my paralysis, I had other difficulties. Over the next few years, I gave serious thought to suicide. And I had the means to do it, but both times I got close, I stopped myself.

If instead, my doctor, an authority figure, had told me that ending my life was a rational course, there might have been a different result. If instead, he had given me a lethal dose to ingest or offered to euthanize me, I might have gone along with it. But assisted suicide and euthanasia were not legal in Montana.

Such courses were off the table. So, instead, I went to college to seek a degree in education. While in college, I participated in wheelchair racing at the state, national and international levels. I met my husband and 21 years later the honeymoon is not over. We have three beautiful daughters and a new baby granddaughter. I am also active in my community.

Montana's law protected me. Assisted suicide and euthanasia should not be legal.

Lucinda Hardy, Columbia Falls
Missoulian, Letters To The Editor, 8/7/14

Tell your legislators, the governor and candidates for office that you don't want assisted suicide and euthanasia.

www.ChoiceIllusion.org



A non-profit corporation opposed to assisted suicide and euthanasia.

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Lucinda at the fair, 2018.