Assisted Suicide and Health Care Rationing.

There was a very quiet victory recently in the United States Congress when the House of Representatives voted 309-111 in favor of H.R. 849 to eliminate [the Independent Payment Advisory Board](FAQs_%20What’s%20the%20Latest%20on%20IPAB_%20_%20The%20Henry%20J.%20Kaiser%20Family%20Foundation.html). The bill now moves to the Senate. IPAB, also dubbed “death panels” had broad authority under the Affordable Care Act to eliminate targeted Medicaid funding, bypassing Congressional oversight.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2018/02/09/congress-votes-to-repeal-independent-payment-advisory-board-obamacares-death-panels/>

*“The board, composed of 15 unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats, was not only directed to limit Medicare spending, but also to limit private, nongovernmental spending on health care to a growth rate below medical inflation. Little attention was given to this more sweeping danger of rationing healthcare paid for with nongovernmental dollars. IPAB’s powers went well beyond an effort to control Medicare spending. IPAB would have created drastic limits for the Department of Health and Human Services to impose on what Americans are allowed to spend out of their own funds to save their own lives and the lives of their families*.

In Boston, [physicians recently held a press conference](http://www.wbjournal.com/article/20180131/HEALTH/180139986) opposing AMA “going neutral” on physician assisted suicide (PAS).

*“A group of Massachusetts physicians who oppose assisted suicide in Massachusetts spoke out against the practice during a State House press conference at noon on Wednesday.*

*Three physicians released prepared remarks ahead of the news conference, detailing their opposition to the pending legislation, and to the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) House of Delegates' recent decision to adopt a position of "neutral engagement" on the matter, after the professional society officially opposed physician-assisted suicide since 1996*.

[And advocacy groups are pushing to advance PAS](http://www.governing.com/topics/health-human-services/gov-end-of-life-assisted-suicide-states.html) in the US. Compassion and Choices has designated Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey as its top targets for legalizing assisted suicide this year.  There is movement occurring in Alaska and Hawaii which bears watching.

[However, the situation in Canada is worsening.](AAPLOG%20Mail%20-%20News%20release_%20Canadian%20court%20rules%20that%20state%20can%20compel%20participation%20in%20homicide%20and%20suicide.pdf)

*“Three judges of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice Divisional Court have*[*unanimously ruled*](http://consciencelaws.org/archive/documents/cpso/2018-01-31-Judgment-CPSO.pdf)*that, notwithstanding religious convictions to the contrary, Ontario physicians can be forced to help patients access any and all services and procedures, including euthanasia and assisted suicide.*

*“In the end,” observed Project Administrator Sean Murphy, “the ruling effectively gives the state the power to compel citizens to be parties to homicide and suicide, even if they believe it is wrong to kill people or help them kill themselves.””*

<https://alexschadenberg.blogspot.ca/2018/01/the-alarming-trend-of-bullying.html>

“*Canadians who are sick and suicidal can now be put to death under various medicalized and government-approved*[*protocols*](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/home-community-care/care-options-and-cost/end-of-life-care/medical-assistance-in-dying)*, following*[*court*](https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/14637/index.do)*and*[*legislative*](http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-14/royal-assent)*victories by euthanasia activists. These activists are now turning their considerable talents to a coercive makeover of the palliative hospice movement by demanding that hospices founded on a promise to never deliberately hasten death should provide a death-hastening service*.”

<https://alexschadenberg.blogspot.ca/2018/01/dutch-psychiatrists-comment-on.html> And the Netherlands is pushing PAS on depressed patients.