



Why the Orthodox Jewish Community Must Speak Out Against Assisted Suicide Legislation

Some in our community have asked: Why should Orthodox Jews get involved in opposing assisted suicide? We don't believe in it. We won't use it. It's not our issue.

But this line of thinking misses the broader and far more dangerous impact this law will have—on us.

1. It Changes the Culture of Medicine – For Everyone

Legalizing assisted suicide doesn't just offer a “new option.” It changes the way doctors, hospitals, and insurance companies view the sick, the elderly, and the disabled. When the law says: It's okay to help someone die, then a life of illness or suffering is no longer seen as worth preserving.

That is the exact opposite of what we believe.

For Orthodox Jews who value every moment of life and fight to ensure continued treatment even when things seem bleak, this shift in culture is a direct threat. It becomes harder to justify choosing life. Doctors may subtly, or not so subtly, steer families toward “compassionate” death. Insurance companies may deny life-sustaining treatment. And the religious patient who wants to fight for every day becomes an “outlier.”

2. It Undermines Our Halachic Rights in the Hospital

Chayim Aruchim receives daily calls from Orthodox families in crisis: being told to stop treatment, pressured to sign DNRs, go to hospice, and refuse feeding tubes or dialysis. We've worked tirelessly to explain to hospitals that our community wants treatment, that we are not looking for ways to die but ways to live, and that these decisions are religious rights, not personal opinions.

But if assisted suicide becomes law, our position becomes harder to defend. In the eyes of the medical system, it will be one option among many. And the patient who chooses life will be seen as “prolonging suffering”—even if that's what their Torah demands.

3. It Sends a Message That Some Lives Aren't Worth Living

We believe that every breath of life is holy. We don't measure life by how productive someone is, how healthy, or how easy their life may be. Once society accepts that some lives are better off ended, that value gets lost. That affects how our elderly are treated. It affects how our hospitals operate. And ultimately, it affects how we are able to advocate for our rights as Orthodox Jews.

4. Silence Will Be Seen as Agreement

If we don't speak up, lawmakers and the public will assume we are okay with this bill. That's why it is so urgent to rally respected Rabbonim, askanim, and community leaders to make our voice heard now. Not because we plan to use this law, but because we will be harmed by it.