

German lawmakers debate assisted suicide regulation

November 6 2015

German lawmakers are debating a range of proposals to regulate assisted suicide, an issue of particular sensitivity in a country where the last time euthanasia was part of public policy it was used by the Nazis to kill more than 200,000 people with physical and mental disabilities.

Assisted suicide is currently a gray area in Germany, neither permitted nor banned by law. Four proposals being debated in Parliament Friday range from fully permitting it so long as it's not for profit, to a near-complete ban.

All proposals have support from a mix of parties, while one group of lawmakers considers all of them unconstitutional.

Chancellor Angela Merkel supports a middle-of-the-road version, proposing up to three years in jail for anyone who offers suicide to someone else "on business terms."

© 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: German lawmakers debate assisted suicide regulation (2015, November 6) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-11-german-lawmakers-debate-suicide.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--