



Another reason to support mercy killing is that medical costs are very high. Today the cost of a hospital room can be as much as \$1,450 per day for basic care, which does not include the cost of specialized care or the use of special equipment. The high cost of medical care can cause financial problems for the family. For example, Charles Adkin's eighty-two-year-old wife lived in a nursing home in a coma for four years. Since there was no chance for her recovery, Mr. Adkins requested that the medical staff withhold treatment. However, his pleas were ignored. Soon after she died, Mr. Adkins was billed \$250,000 for his wife's medical care. The courts ordered him to pay the bill, which must have placed a terrible financial burden on him.

The final reason to support the legalization of euthanasia is that the family suffers. The nurses and other hospital staff can give the terminally ill patient only minimum care. Thus, the family must spend time to care for the special needs of their loved one. For instance, Nancy Cruzan was kept alive on life-support machines for eight years. She would never recover from her vegetative state. However, during those years, her loving, caring parents visited her regularly.

In the end, because terminally ill patients have no chance to recover and to live normal lives, they should be allowed to die with dignity. Therefore, the family should have the right to ask doctors to turn off the life-support machines or to stop further medical treatment. To prolong life artificially when there is no hope for the future is a tragedy both for the patients and for their loved ones.

( from *Introduction to Academic Writing, Second Edition*, pp.170-171 )

**Notes:** legalization 合法化 < legal 合法的な、 euthanasia 安楽死、 patients 患者、 respirator 人工呼吸装置、 nutrition 栄養、 swallow 飲み込む、 balloon 風船、 coma 昏睡状態 irreversible 元には戻らない、 a nursing home 老人ホーム、 入院可能な病院、 withhold 差し控える、 be billed 請求される、 life-support machines 生命維持装置、 vegetative state 植物状態 terminally ill patients 末期症状の患者、 prolong 延命する