



Who is Dr. Ira Byock?

Ira Byock, MD, is one of the most anti-pro-life hospice and palliative care physicians in the country.

Ira Byock, MD, is one of the most anti-pro-life hospice and palliative care physicians in the country. He is a self-described secular humanist and staunch supporter of Planned Parenthood and abortion “rights.”[1] Dr. Byock promotes medical killing by covert euthanasia (a.k.a. “stealth euthanasia”) by means of terminal sedation as well as “voluntary stopping eating and drinking” (VSED) in hospice and other settings.[2] Nevertheless, he calls himself “pro-life” because he opposes the legalization of assisted suicide.

Ira Byock was a member of Choice In Dying – an organization originally named the Euthanasia Society of America.[3] He was responsible for merging that organization into the hospice lobbying group Partnership for Caring (PFC) in 1999. Choice In Dying and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (for which Byock served as president in 1997 and subsequently as a member of its board of directors) were the first two groups to merge into PFC. Byock teamed up with the late Mary Labyak, MSW, who was the CEO of the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast where Terri Schiavo was made to die by starvation and dehydration in 2005, setting a hospice precedent for withdrawal of basic care – food and water. (Contrary to many news accounts, Terri was never on “life support.” Food and fluids were given to her through a feeding tube.)

In 2004, Byock and others merged PFC and affiliated organizations into the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), the only national lobbying group for hospice and palliative care organizations.

Byock has trained the trainers of staff in hospice care settings throughout the United States, so his influence is vast. The effect? The original authentically life-affirming Christian mission of hospice has been largely abandoned. Hospices have been transformed into what some call “killing fields.” Physicians and nurses who are faithful to the original pro-life mission of hospice are increasingly forced out of the tainted hospice industry as “troublemakers.”

Who is Dr. Ira Byock? A very dangerous man.

RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS

American Life League – all.org

Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization – halovoice.org

Hospice Patients Alliance – hospicepatients.org

Scholl Institute of Bioethics – schollbioethics.org

1. <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2012/10/physician-assisted-suicide-is-not-progressive/264091/> | 2. “Responding to Intractable Terminal Suffering: The Role of Terminal Sedation and Voluntary Refusal of Food and Fluids,” Timothy E. Quill, MD; Ira R. Byock, MD, for the ACP-ASIM End-of-Life Care Consensus Panel, *Ann Intern Med.* 2000;132:408-414; <http://www.worldrdtd.org/quill&Byock.html> | 3. Choices (The Newsletter of Choice In Dying), Vol. 7, No. 4, Winter 1998 and Vol. 8, No. 4, Winter 1999.