

Harold Glucksberg, MD, along with three other doctors, three gravely ill patients, and the nonprofit organization Compassion in Dying, brought a suit challenging the state of Washington's ban on physician-assisted suicide.

The plaintiffs asserted that the Washington ban was unconstitutional, arguing that the existence of a liberty interest protected by the Fourteenth Amendment allows mentally competent, terminally ill adults to commit physician-assisted suicide. The District Court ruled that the ban was unconstitutional, and the Ninth Circuit affirmed.

The Supreme Court, in a 9-0 decision, reversed, finding that the ban on physician-assisted suicide does not violate the Fourteenth Amendment.