

NEWS RELEASE
March 21, 2006

Cedarville University
Public Relations

LOCAL EXPERTS TO TAKE PART IN ASSISTED SUICIDE DEBATE

Cedarville, Ohio—With physician-assisted suicide legal in Oregon and under consideration in several other states, the debate remains: Is assisted suicide a form of compassionate care or does it lead to a slippery ethical slope?

Three local medical professionals — Dr. Anne McWilliams, Dr. Robert Reece, and Dr. Dennis Sullivan — will debate the ethical issues and implications of assisted suicide at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4 at Cedarville University. This academic debate, titled “Assisted Suicide: Compassionate Care or Slippery Slope?” will be moderated by Ellen Belcher, editorial page editor for the *Dayton Daily News*. The timed debate will also allow for questions from the audience and will be followed by an open reception.

McWilliams, who will take a favorable position on assisted suicide, is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at United Theological Seminary. Reece, one of the founding chairs of the Wright State University School of Medicine and Professor Emeritus of the Department of Community Health, will represent a middle-ground position. Sullivan, Professor of Biology at Cedarville University and a member of the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity, will speak in opposition to physician assistance in the act of suicide.

The public is invited to attend this free event, which will be held in the Jeremiah Chapel of Cedarville University’s Dixon Ministry Center. For more information, call 937-766-4159.