

Timothy Quill, MD, along with two other physicians and three gravely ill patients, challenged the constitutionality of New York state's ban on physician-assisted suicide. The plaintiffs argued that New York's ban violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, as the law allowed for patients to refuse life-sustaining treatment, but not for them to receive assistance in suicide.

The District Court ruled in favor of the State of New York, and the Second Circuit reversed in favor of Dr. Quill. The Supreme Court, in a 9-0 ruling, upheld the constitutionality of New York's ban on physician-assisted suicide.