

# THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

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CHAPLAIN ALLAN W. REED  
Director—Department of Pastoral Services  
and  
The School of Pastoral Care

April 20, 1977

Food and Drug Administration  
Office of General Counsel  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTENTION:** Mr. Paul Ragan

In the matter of a rule-making procedure concerning *LAETRILE*. Docket 77N-0048

A verified statement of The Reverend Allan W. Reed.

I am Director of the Department of Pastoral Services and the School of Pastoral Care at the Massachusetts General Hospital; a Priest in good standing in the Episcopal Church; an Associate of the Faculty of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and have been asked to prepare a statement by the Food and Drug Administration.

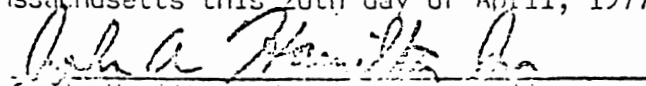
Given the assumption that the drug *LAETRILE* is not effective in the treatment of Cancer, I believe that an ethical imperative exists for the Food and Drug Administration to keep the drug off the market.

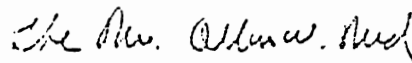
The ethical issues of a group legislating for an individual, thereby threatening the principal freedom of choice, contrasts with the ethical principal of a government protecting its citizens from fraud and abuse. In the case of a drug for which there is no proven efficacy, the ethical weight is on the side of protection of the citizens.

My view rises both out of my consideration of the "ethics" of the case, and of my experience with many families and patients in situations where a final "cure" is sought. The ability of such persons to protect themselves is often severely limited by the emotional situation in which they find themselves.

*This is a statement of my opinion and is in no way a presentation of the Massachusetts General Hospital.*

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Boston,  
Massachusetts this 20th day of April, 1977.

  
John A. Hamilton, Jr., Notary Public  
Commission expires August 1, 1981.



The Reverend Allan W. Reed, Director,  
Department of Pastoral Services  
and School of Pastoral Care, IGH  
Clinical Pastoral Education Associate,  
Episcopal Divinity School

AWR/lcm