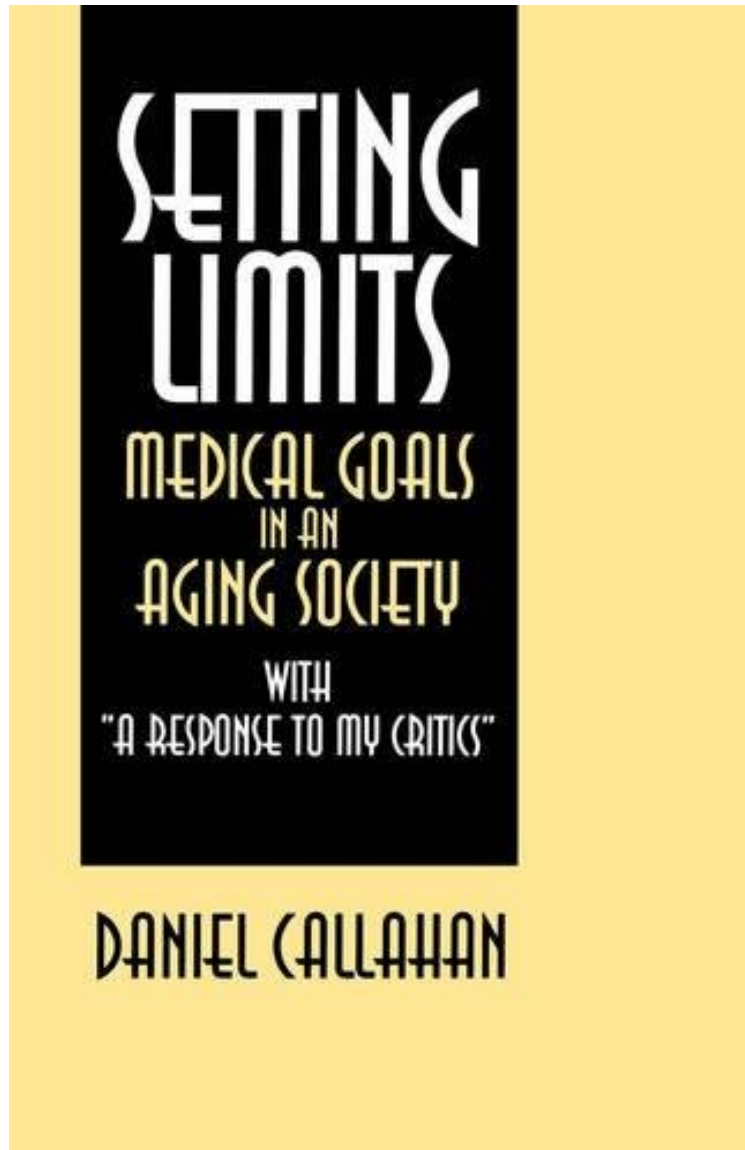


[Download] Setting Limits: Medical Goals in an Aging Society with "A Response to My Critics"

Setting Limits: Medical Goals in an Aging Society with "A Response to My Critics"

Daniel Callahan

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Daniel Callahan : Setting Limits: Medical Goals in an Aging Society with "A Response to My Critics" before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Setting Limits: Medical Goals in an Aging Society with "A Response to My Critics":

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. If we had courage we would discuss this book in congressBy

KavyoCallahan approaches a difficult and controversial subject with both good thinking and feeling. He approaches the issue of dealing with the price we all pay by being unwilling to deal with our own mortality. His writing style is engaging and well-considered. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well written By Susan MToo academic for what I was looking for but well written 11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Setting Limits By APK This is an important book. Many of Daniel Callahan's statements about health care for older people (75 and older, for example), if taken out of context, can be chilling (especially if you are 75 or older). But Callahan, a philosopher, views death as a necessary part of life. His opposition is not to health care for old people. Instead, his opposition is to the use of biomedicine for old people. Biomedicine is expensive and interferes with the natural life cycle. Callahan maintains that biomedicine should not be used for old people who are seriously ill and who would otherwise die. Callahan questions the value of extending life without improving life. Some readers might conclude that Callahan's approach is intended to cut the cost of health care. I think Callahan would disagree. Money might be saved if biomedicine were denied old people who are seriously ill. But, per Callahan, more money would be spent on improving their end-of-life care. Be careful of people who quote Callahan as a way to save money. They have misunderstood him.

A provocative call to rethink America's values in health care.

From Publishers Weekly In this wise and thought-provoking review of present attitudes and public policy toward aging and death, Callahan, author of *Abortion: Law, Choice and Morality*, etc., faults our health care system for devoting disproportionate resources and technology on extending the lives of the elderly regardless of the quality of their lives. He also warns against the social and economic consequences of the increased ratio of old people in the population. Medical care, he suggests, should be allocated based on standards of need and priorities to meet them over a "normal life-span opportunity range," limiting the use of new technology to that which improves the quality of life. He also discusses the ethics of withholding artificial sustenance from the terminally ill, euthanasia and assisted suicide. "The proper question is not whether we are succeeding in giving a longer life to the aged," he argues, but "whether we are making of old age a decent and honorable time of life." Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Callahan addresses the problems of aging in a clear, comprehensive, sensitive, and compassionate manner. This is a pivotal work that poses hard questions and proposes provocative answers. *Setting Limits* promises to be the benchmark for future moral, medical and policy discussions of aging." *New York Times Book* "Logical and persuasive. . . . Provocative, well-based arguments from a respected voice." *Kirkus* "A thought-provoking and heart-jarring assessment of medical goals and aging in the United States today." *America* "A thought-provoking, in some ways profound, work.... a morally courageous book, challenging current widespread assumptions that we should prolong life by increasing medical care even if the result is worsening health throughout the United States." *New York of Books* "An intelligent, profound, and challenging volume that should be assiduously chewed and digested by medical, legal, ethical, and policy professionals and all others who have a stake in the vital issues it raises." *Journal of Legal Medicine* "Callahan's book should be read but very carefully by anyone interested in aging, older persons, health care, and issues of morality in American society.... This book is likely to be a point of reference in such discussions for some time to come." Robert H. Binstock and Jeff Kahana, *The Gerontologist*