

To the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights,

I understand you are taking suggestions on Bill C-14 to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts.

First of all it should read - medical assisted death - NOT dying.

I don't think there are any safeguards you can put in place to make this a just act. I think the notwithstanding clause should be implemented. However - the terms should be clearly defined - limited only to terminal illnesses.

There needs to be above all conscience protection for Health Care Professionals - they should be able without penalty to not be involved in the act of killing or refer to someone who will.

Suicides have increased at the very time the assisted suicide movement has been rigorously and prominently promoting self killing as a proper means to alleviate suffering. If we say that suicide is okay in some circumstances, but not others we are sending a mixed message, making it more difficult for the anti-suicide message to sink in.

I totally agree with the Indigenous Liberal MP, who says he'll vote against his government's euthanasia bill. Robert-Falcon Ouellette, MP for Winnipeg Centre said that the proposed bill essentially sends the message that death can be an appropriate response to a difficult set of circumstances. When resources and press are focusing on the Ontario First Nations town of Attawapiskat - declared a state of emergency after as many as 100 residents attempted to themselves. We must fight the "Spirit of Suicide". "For First Nations communities where people struggle with hopelessness and despair, where people are suffering, we want to encourage people to embrace hope and life" he wrote.

We need to focus on palliative care. Bill C-14 will change the atmosphere in our hospitals and how our medical people are trained. As the head of our medical college stated - Doctors with a conscience make the best Doctors.

Truly - KILLING IS NOT CARING. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are not the answer. Ideally throw out the law and strengthen the wording of the current law against assisted suicide. make Palliative care access mandatory - not assisted suicide.

Sincerely,
Mary Riendeau
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan