

Thank you for this opportunity to address a few concerns regarding Bill C-14.

First of all I would like to thank you for seeing the dangers of legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia for minors and those suffering from mental illness, and I'm asking that you uphold that Bill C-14 not allow assisted suicide for these groups of vulnerable people. However, I feel that the bill still does not include sufficient safeguards for many Canadians, including not only those contemplating assisted suicide, but also for the medical practitioners.

It is concerning to me that Bill C-14 does not protect right of conscience for medical practitioners, so I am asking that you protect chartered rights by clearly stating that no doctor or institution will be forced to participate in assisted suicide or euthanasia against their own conscience.

I would also like to ask that access to palliative care be made mandatory in law. It is concerning to me that assisted suicide be made legal before sufficient palliative care is available to Canadians. To me this implies that our caring society would rather terminate lives than take the time to compassionately care for, and support those at the end of their lives. This is unfair to valued Canadians.

I would also ask that the bill ensure an independent third-party review before all proposed deaths, and that clear specifications be made as to who applies for assisted suicide. I am concerned that the specifications are too vague (for instance "reasonably foreseeable" death) and could therefore be stretched to mean something they were never intended to mean. It should be clearly stated that natural death be physically inevitable, and that medically everything that can be done has been done for the welfare and hopefully cure of the patient.

I am very concerned about the effects of legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada, and am asking that amendments be made to Bill C-14 to protect all Canadians at all stages of life.

Thank you for your time.

Sarah Hein