

To whom it may concern,

I have concerns about the proposed Bill 14 on Medical Assistance in Dying.

One of the most concerning and surprising aspects of this legislation that goes beyond the committee recommendations is the ability for "anyone" to take part in aiding an assisted death. In Section 241(5) under "Exemption for person aiding patient", anyone can help administer a lethal medication in the assisted suicide of another person, presumably in a "home death".

"No person commits an offence under paragraph (1)(b) if they do anything, at another person's explicit request, for the purpose of aiding that other person to self-administer a substance that has been prescribed for that other person as part of the provision of medical assistance in dying in accordance with section 241.2."

Unlike medical or nurse practitioners, those assisting in this way have no obligation to report the circumstances. This is one of the most concerning parts of this legislation. This could give, for example, protection to euthanasia advocates who might 'shepherd' patients towards doctor assisted death. For obvious reasons, this is a clear opportunity for abuse, even from family members.

Bill C-14 requires that approval for euthanasia or assisted suicide be done by two independent physicians or nurse practitioners, without requiring oversight from an independent third-party. Further to this, the bill permits that the same practitioners who do the killing also be the ones who file the report after the fact. This means that any incompetence or coercion on the part of these two practitioners would not likely be admitted. With the patient dead, no one will ever know.

For those doctors who object to such measures, there is little mention in the Bill of conscience protection. According to the Coalition of Health Care and Conscience, a coalition of over 5000 objecting physicians, this is a signal from the government that this issue will be left up to provincial jurisdictions.

Finally, there are exemptions in place for people who commit assisted suicide and assist with euthanasia in error, meaning without the patient's consent, under "Reasonable but mistaken belief".

I believe this legislation, if passed, will be the perfect combination of laws and omissions of law that will enable outright murder of vulnerable people who have no one to advocate for them. We are walking on very dangerous ground.

Sincerely,

Chris Keyes