

RE: Bill C-14

As a private citizen I am writing with concern that proposed Bill C-14 does not satisfy the Supreme Court's ruling and further does not provide equal access to assisted dying for individuals living with intolerable suffering.

The proposed legislation only allows the suffering patient whose natural death is "reasonably foreseeable" to be given the opportunity for medically assisted dying. This means that a person who is **equally** suffering by an irremediable medical condition, but whose death is not "foreseeable" will not be given the same opportunity. Such an individual who wants to die rather than suffer will have to resort to other means, including starvation, to end their life.

The Supreme Court did not contemplate two categories of suffering individuals. In its decision, there was **no** mention of assisted death only for those who were terminal.

There is no response from the government on whether it will continue the discussion on recommendations from the joint committee, particularly the notion of advanced directives. I understand that there is a need to tread lightly here, but given the support of Canadians on this issue, the government should commit to reviewing the topic prior to the five year review expected after the passage of Bill C-14 .

Many of us aging boomers do not want a future of suffering and demise that we witnessed with our parents. There needs to be choice. There should be further discussion with Canadians about whether advanced directives have a place in our health care planning. The recommendations of the joint committee should not just be shelved but rather undergo further review and consideration.

Thank you.

Wendy Pauling