

After reading Bill C-41 there are several points we want to make about our thoughts of Euthanasia and assisted suicide. Why not care for those who are suffering and dying with a stronger palliative care. Every hospital should have this available.

The following is sent by Gerard & Marguerite Raes.

1. We oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide for many reasons, but the main reason is legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide gives legal power to another person to cause your death. No one should ever have the right in law to cause your death. Death is irrevocable.

The term - Medical Assistance in Dying encompasses euthanasia and assisted suicide, therefore it is correct to use the terms euthanasia and assisted suicide. We refer to acts of euthanasia and assisted suicide based on what it actually is. Euthanasia is an act of homicide, where one person causes the death of another person. Euthanasia is usually done by giving a person a lethal injection. Assisted Suicide is assisting another person's suicide and it is usually done by giving that person a lethal dose that the person technically takes themselves.

2. Bill C-14 allows nurse practitioners to approve of euthanasia or assisted suicide. All other jurisdictions limit approvals to doctors.

3. Bill C-14 does not provide effective oversight of the law. This issue concerns life and death, this bill allows a medical or nurse practitioner who approves the death, to all be the person who carries-out the death, to also be the person who reports the death. This is a self-reporting system that protects persons who do the act. People do not self-report abuse of the law. There needs to be third-party, preferably the court to provide effective oversight of the law.

4. Bill C-14 provides legal immunity to: any person who does anything for the purpose of aiding a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner to provide a person with medical assistance in dying. The bill provides a perfect cover for acts of murder.

5. Bill C-14 creates a false illusion of safeguards. For instance, the bill requires a medical or nurse practitioner to: be of the opinion that the person meets all of the criteria. The medical and nurse practitioner will always claim that they were "of the opinion" that the person met all of the criteria.

There are many more illusions of safeguards in the bill such as: the bill requires a medical or nurse practitioner to: be satisfied that the request was signed and dated by the person—or by another person under subsection (4). To be satisfied does not protect anyone.

6. The bill does not require the person to be terminally ill. The bill says: their natural death has become reasonably foreseeable, taking into account all of their medical circumstances, without a prognosis necessarily having been made as to the specific length of time that they have remaining. This is meaningless double speak. How would it be determined that death has become reasonably foreseeable?

7. The bill provides no conscience protection for healthcare professionals. Further to that, the bill requires medical or nurse practitioners to provide the "designated recipient" or the Minister of Health with every request for euthanasia or assisted suicide.

We are fully aware that the Supreme Court struck down Canada's assisted suicide law, but Bill C-14 does not provide effective oversight of the law, the bill enables anyone to directly participate in the act, the bill provides an illusion of safeguards and the bill does not provide conscience protection for medical professionals. The details in this bill are dangerous for Canadians in their time of need.