

To the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights,

Regarding the passage of Bill C-14, I wish to express my concerns regarding the flaws in this bill.

This Bill does not provide effective oversight of the law in that:

Section 241(3) of the Bill, provides legal immunity to any person who directly participates in the act and section 241(5) provides legal immunity to anyone who does anything, at another person's request for the purpose of aiding that person to self-administer a substance that has been prescribed for that other person as part of the provision of medical assistance in dying. These sections provide legal immunity to any person directly involved with killing another person. With immunity to anyone, it will make it very easy to cover up acts of murder.

It allows a medical or nurse practitioner who approves the death, to be the person who carries-out the death, to be the person who reports the death. This is a self reporting-system that protects persons who do the act. Again, making it easy to cover up acts of murder.

Secondly, the bill does not require a person to be terminally ill.

Rather, Bill C-14 defines terminal as: Natural death has become reasonably foreseeable. Without a prognosis how could specifics of a person's death be made as to the length of time before death?

Thirdly, there is no conscience protection for healthcare professionals.

Section 241.31, requires medical and nurse practitioners to be involved in the act by requiring them to "send requests" for euthanasia or assisted suicide to a "designated recipient" or the Minister of Health. Our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, specifically gives freedom of conscience and religion to Canadians. So how can healthcare workers be forced to participate in an act that is against their conscience? This is wrong.

Healthcare workers deserve the right to provide caring and compassionate care to their dying patients.

Lastly, the bill requires a medical or nurse practitioner to "be of the opinion that the person meets all of the criteria". How can it be proved that the person meets all the criteria if it is only the medic's "opinion".

Section 4 enables any person to sign the request as long as they are 18 and understand the nature of the request. Wisdom comes with age, and it would be hard to believe that an 18 year old, considered to be an adult would fully understand the ramifications of this decision.

In concluding, I would like to say that this is an affront to our indigenous peoples in that they are already struggling with suicide in their communities. This just adds fuel to the fire of despair. We need to protect them from this "spirit of suicide".

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Bergen
Sent from my iPhone