

Dear Committee Members;

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Please understand that I am totally against allowing any form of Assisted Suicide in Canada. As Bill C-14 is currently being worked on I would like to see the following concerns addressed within this piece of legislation.

a) Because physician-assisted suicide is a matter of life and death, nurses should **not** have the same authority as doctors in this matter.

b) Simply having two doctors to approve such a decision leaves too much room for abuse. At the very least each case should undergo a judicial review.

c) The bill does not explicitly state who is eligible for physician assisted suicide. Leaving this open-ended leaves room for abuses to occur. Ask that the bill specifically define the word "terminal".

d) Since physician-assisted suicide will be accessible to all, a **right to palliative care must also be added** so that those in their final stages of life also have the **choice** to access this quality care, and not be left with physician assisted suicide as their only option.

e) It be explicitly stated that healthcare providers be allowed to refuse to perform and refer for physician-assisted suicide on the grounds of conscientious objection. Conscience rights are a protected freedom under Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and should not be violated.

I lost one of my younger sisters to cancer on April 7th, 2016, so you can imagine how fresh the experience is. She received excellent Palliative Care and was very comfortable to the end. She was also able to decide for herself when to continue with treatment and when to stop the TPN and transfusions. This is how good end of life care is conducted now and there is no need for someone to end their life earlier than it would naturally occur by deliberate actions taken from fear of pain or discomfort or, worst of all, of possibly being a burden. The time we had with my sister was so precious.

Thanks again,
Lola Alsmo