

Bill C-14

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing in the hope that the proposed euthanasia bill C-14 will be very significantly altered.

Euthanasia is not the answer to the matters that proponents of it cite. We need much better palliative care and pain relief for those gravely ill.

Any law that now permits for any euthanasia will become only more permissive over time. This is the experience of European countries.

All human life is sacred, and it is wrong to shorten a person's life. We have natural instincts to save a person's life rather than end it. We can help people to see that there is a tomorrow.

There have been all-too-many instances of euthanasia, in practice, increasingly targeting the elderly, the infirm, the disabled (in any way), and those with depression and/or mental illness.

Specifically, Bill C-14

- * Does not provide effective oversight of the law. It does not require before-death oversight from an independent third party. It allows a doctor or nurse practitioner to approve the act, execute the act, and report the act.

- * Provides legal immunity to "any person" who directly participates in euthanasia and assisted suicide. This applies to anyone who does anything to assist a doctor or nurse practitioner in providing medical assistance in dying. It also applies to those who do anything at another person's request to aid the other person in self-administering a substance prescribed as part of provision of medical assistance in dying. Thus it applies to family members and friends. The bill lacks any further definition, so it could apply to anyone. It can be good cover for an act of murder.

- * The bill does not provide conscience protection for medical practitioners or nurse practitioners. They are required to send requests for euthanasia or assisted suicide to a "designated recipient" or the Minister of Health. This makes them participate in the act. This would often result in a very serious denial of religious freedom.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark and Nancy Beddoe