

To Members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

As a long-standing advocate for Physician Assisted Dying (PAD, I was very disappointed to read Bill C-14. I had expected it to be more in line with the recommendations of the Court.

First of all, I think that it is appalling that death has to be foreseeable. People with MS, ALS and many other chronic conditions suffer grievously when their condition is advanced.

I consider it unjust that people with long-standing and intractable mental illness (I have known one who committed suicide in his 50s) are not as entitled to PAD as people with physical illness, if they meet certain conditions. I also think that we have to trust the judgment of physicians. They aren't going to kill someone who could still respond to treatment.

Not allowing advance consent is really problematic because so many people are comatose or delirious before they die. As for the longer term consent for people who are diagnosed with some form of dementia, usually Alzheimers, I think that they should have to specify exactly at what stage they have to be before they can receive PAD, and they must not appear to be enjoying their life.

I hope that you will decide to advise the government that they stick as closely as possible to the wording and spirit of "Carter". If not, there are bound to be court challenges which just wastes more time and resources.

Thank you for studying this issue once again.

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