

With regard to the upcoming legislation on the right to choose when and how we die, I would like to express some feelings. After seeing a family fall apart due to lack of laws, acceptance that we are born with the freedom of choice, yet cannot hold onto that freedom of choice at the end of our lives, with respect, dignity, love and compassion that people wish for, regardless of race, culture or creed. My family member had two strokes, within 10 days, from which she never recovered. This much loved wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, was a highly respected teacher, and accomplished musician, a Master Gardener, an avid reader, and in a split second was 'condemned' to 6 years of living, when she could not communicate, was immobile, incontinent, and totally unable to live a life of any quality that she had loved so much, and gave so much in return. A natural death was not reasonably foreseeable. Had she been able to end her life, her way, her choice, when, where and how, with assistance, she would have. Before her stroke she made this very clear. If she had written an advanced consent form, and it had been adhered to, her family would have been spared the journey and the torment it was put through.

I feel strongly regarding the definition of grievous and irremediable - the word irremediable is not qualified in the proposed legislation.

As a mother of two grown men, both with families, the last thing I wish to be remembered for if I become like the above mentioned sister, much as we love, admire and respect each other, that the same family circumstances happen again as previously related, tearing people apart, financially, emotionally and physically, because my freedom of choice to choose an assisted death was not able to be carried out.

Respectively,

M. Chester