

Dear Committee members,

Bill C-14 has several serious problems, that hopefully your committee can rectify by amendments.

1. The Bill, by its wording, would NOT qualify Ms Carter for assisted death (AD)! This unambiguously contravenes the Supreme Court Canada (SCC) judgement which ruled in her favor.

2. The SCC did not include 'terminal'...Bill C-14 uses the poorly defined term 'reasonably foreseeable' which will restrict access to AD which is contrary to the SCC judgement.

3. Advanced consent, advised by Parliament's own joint committee, has been excluded. This will have dire, completely predictable consequences.

4. C-14 stipulates that the patient must have no cognitive impairment at the time of AD. This quixotic rule ignores what happens to many patients in their last few weeks of life (in and out of confusion, high dose sedatives etc).

The SCC and public (including Catholics) overwhelmingly support AD and advanced consent. By ignoring Canadians' wishes and the SCC judgement, what should have been an enlightened piece of legislation has turned into a cowardly sham. It is unacceptable that the Religious Right has been allowed to hijack the will of the people and the SCC. Are you prepared to allow Canada's shabby performance around the abortion issue to be repeated?

Professor Adrian Fine MD, FRCP.