

To: The Committee re: Amendments to the Doctor Assisted Dying Bill C-14

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you so much for inviting me to respond to the initial draft of Bill C-14 and for your consideration of the following amendments to this proposed legislation.

Please understand how incredibly shocked and disappointed my family was when the proposed wording of this new law was released. Changes must be made. My mother is Margot Bentley; you may have heard of her prolonged suffering over many, many years. She is being kept alive against her wishes. Despite being extremely clear with her family about what she wanted at the end of her life and despite recording her written instructions in a document, an Advance Directive, that was signed, dated and witnessed, my mom's instructions are being disregarded and she is being forced to endure an on going existence in a vegetative state of extremely advanced dementia.

What is fair or just or humane about this?

Let there be no doubt; my mother Margot Bentley is "**suffering intolerably**" however, her death is not "reasonably foreseeable"; indeed, she has already lived far beyond the expected life span of a person diagnosed with Alzheimers disease. Most people mercifully die in 8-10 years; my mother continues to exist 17 years after her diagnosis. She is indeed "**terminally ill**" yet excluded from being allowed a doctor assisted death under Bill C-14, in it's current form.

Margot Bentley was "**mentally competent**" in **1991** when she wrote her Advance Consent and following her diagnosis of Alzheimers disease in 1999, she again repeatedly reiterated her wishes to her family. How can Bill C-14 ignore the wishes and rights of my mother? Why should she be discriminated against on the basis of her diagnosis? This legislation **must** include clear provisions for **Advance Consent for doctor assisted dying**.

Margot Bentley is not alone. According to the Alzheimers Society, in 2011 there were 747,000 Canadians living with dementia, which is 15% of Canadians over the age of 65. **By 2030, if nothing changes, there will be 1.4 million Canadians suffering from this tragic and incurable disease.** How can Bill C-14 exclude these people from having choice around their end of life care and options? How can we, as Canadians, allow this

prolonged and unwanted suffering? People like my mother deserve the right to make a choice, to be able to ask, in advance, for doctor assisted dying, and to be allowed a peaceful and dignified death.

Margot Bentley, forced to endure years of suffering, against her declared and written wishes.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine Hammond, daughter of Margot Bentley, May 1, 2016