

It is hard to grasp how many otherwise intelligent people have not only agreed to "drink the Koolaid" but have lobbied their example into a law that will undoubtedly pressure many others to follow suit when their hearts are broken, when 'it' all seems hopeless, or their loneliness or pain or dependency has brought them to despair.

You have it on the testimony of countless professionals who have spoken against such legislation that the usual justification of 'choice' or 'personal autonomy' is really a smokescreen for eugenics, rationing of resources, or simple fear of things beyond one's control; and while many of us know it has been going on already for many years in Canada, the pressure on medical staff to kill against their conscience or better judgment, and on patients to submit to being killed instead of being helped, has already caused an observable slippery-slope in those countries that see themselves as so "progressive". When people are forced to shut down their consciences just to keep a decent job, you will find Canadians committing unimaginable abuses and crimes. When people ignore their conscience long enough, no laws or safety clauses will substitute. It will be open season on the weak, elderly, handicapped, disabled, and any unwanted person, just as it is now on the unborn, and there will be no justice or protection from the system that legislates to allow doctors to play God.

As a person who survived a suicide attempt 50 years ago, I know that it is only life itself that holds God's gift of a hope and a future; for me that has been comprised of 2 wonderful children, 4 beautiful grandchildren, 40+ years of marriage to one good man, many wonderful friends, a fulfilling career, and beautiful music I might never have heard. Had there been someone to ensure I succeeded in ending my pain and despair at 18, do you really believe that would have been preferable to what I have experienced? It is impossible to find a reason to live if you are dead.

Anyone may refuse treatment or procedures they do not want, or put in writing their wishes for the future should they fear some day becoming unable to communicate. Power of Attorney is generally effective: if it weren't, why would some doctors want to deprive patients of the protection and advocacy it affords? No system is perfect for every event but we had better err on the side of Life as our default position.

If you ignore the history that bleeds for millions who would attest to the evil that lurks in the hearts of men and nations with no conscience, and these warnings of your day fall upon deaf ears, a Pandora's box will spew upon our nation evil for which all who give support to Bill C-14 will answer.

Please seriously consider the recommendations of ARPA and others who are pleading for this bill to be thrown out and protection of life restored to our land.

Sincerely,

Elaine Taylor