

Dave Maljaars

April 30, 2016

Re: Bill C-14

Dear Honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Thank you for giving Canadians the opportunity to make suggestions regarding the proposed law on assisted death, Bill C-14. I have many reasons to be unhappy with the proposed law, but I will limit myself to only one constructive criticism.

Whereas all vague language in legislation is by nature un-prosecutable and unenforceable, (and if it is prosecuted will be overturned by the courts); therefore be it resolved that the words in Section 241.2(2)(d):

“their natural death has become reasonably foreseeable, taking into account all of their medical circumstances, without a prognosis necessarily having been made as to the specific length of time that they have remaining.”

be replaced with

“their natural death has become reasonably foreseeable, taking into account all of their medical circumstances, with at least two doctors agreeing that natural death is imminent and likely to occur in the next 3-4 months.”

I appreciate very much the intent of the wording proposed, and it is to the credit of those who have drafted it, that there seems to be a sincere concern not to have this law applied willy-nilly in any circumstance as if life was not something to be protected and cherished. However, the intent of a law is no guarantee of it being applied; rather, the wording must be of a precise nature so that the justice system is not left in doubt as to whether a particular case will fall under the strictures of the law or outside of it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Maljaars', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dave Maljaars  
Chilliwack, BC, Canada