

Dear JUSTICE COMMITTEE,

We still have an opportunity to get it right!

I am one of the 85% of Canadians who want Bill C-14 to honour the intent and language of the Carter decision and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Therefore, I respectfully request the following amendments:

- a) remove section 241.2(3)(b)(ii), "death is foreseeable" This statement is confusing and redundant. It violates the rights of those with degenerative diseases.
- b) create a referral process to ensure patients who have requested MAID do not have to find a willing provider on their own
- c) ensure all publicly funded hospitals, hospices and long-term care facilities allow MAID on the premises.
- d) remove "..ensures gives express consent..." from section 241.2(3)(h)

Last year I spoke with citizen groups at public libraries throughout southern BC about Advance Care Planning. Many who attended the workshops had experienced the grievous suffering and irremediable illnesses addressed in Bill C-14: the mother feeding her 34 year old daughter through an open hole in her throat because ALS is irremediable and lingering; the daughter who had to bring her mother home from hospice because her six month tenancy had expired; the young wife who saw her husband beg to be spared from the irremediable pain of cancer.

For which of these citizens is death "foreseeable"? Is this a term that can be applied consistently across our country? Certainly the CMA doesn't think so. However, we can all identify grievous suffering with an illness that is irremediable.

Should the dying patient have to search for Medical Assistance from a hospital bed because the legislation protects the medical professional but fails the patient? Should patients have to be moved to another institution to access MAID? Legislation is meant to protect these vulnerable people, to support their charter right to choice, and to provide humane, universal access to MAID throughout our country. Legislation must mandate a referral process.

I heard British Columbians speak passionately for Advance Consent to MAID, fearful of being condemned to the wasteland of dementia or Huntingdon's disease. The right to advance consent was recognized by the Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group on Physician Assisted Dying AND Parliament's Special Joint Committee on Physician Assisted Dying. Advance requests for dying by foregoing penicillin, dialysis or tube feeding are recognized in Advance Directive now. Why are advance requests for MAID, a much more humane method, denied? Do not force Canadians to take an early exit. Remove the very problematic requirement for additional consent at the time of MAID. Amend C-14 so it is compliant with the Supreme Court's decision to allow Canadians with dementia access to MAID.

Thank you for considering my appeal.
Marcia Hogan