

To: The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

It is not often my wife or I pick up our pen and write to both our Member of Parliament and the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights on an issue we feel very strong about.

But we are most concerned about the deficiencies in Bill C-14 on assisted dying. We believe that there has been sufficient assessments made of what is missing and what should be required in this Bill. The new legislation requires immediate repairs and we expect our MP's and the Standing Committee of Justice and Human Rights to understand our feelings and act upon this.

As Seniors, one of the greatest fears we have is contracting Dementia with no hope for a peaceful end of life, and without advance consent in a corrected Bill C-14, we are doomed!

We support the opinion that this current legislation, as tabled, plainly violates the Charter rights of suffering Canadians. We believe our MP's and the Committee must represent our concerns and press for amendments to the Bill as it moves through the Parliamentary process. The Supreme Court has already ruled on this right for Canadians, the federal government, and this Committee of last resort, must take the initiative to amend this legislation and thereby respect our rights.

You will be remembered in the media and the public for the actions you take or fail to take to protect these rights in Bill C-14!

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,
Barbara and Carl Brandes

The Key points that are deficient and must be repaired in Bill C-14 are as follows:

- **Changes to reflect Carter:** As is, the draft legislation does not meet the minimum standard of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in Carter. Carter does not require terminal illness, but the government's legislation proposes that a natural death is **reasonably foreseeable**, or in other words, terminal. People with chronic conditions such as MS, or ALS would not qualify for an assisted death unless their death is imminent.
- **Advance consent:** Without advance consent, people with a diagnosis for dementia and other degenerative medical conditions, will be faced with a cruel choice-take their own lives too early, or die a horrific death. If advance consent is not included in legislation now, the law should state that it will be phased in within 3 years.
- **"Green light" cases:** The bill suggests that the patient must be **competent** at the time of request and the time of the assisted death. If someone is scheduled to have an assisted death on Monday, but loses competency Sunday (due to a coma or sudden stroke), then they would no longer qualify. Or, if they lose competency during the mandatory **15 day waiting period**, they would also not be able to receive an assisted death.
- **Definition of grievous and irremediable:** The Carter decision states that irremediable "does not require the patient to undertake treatments that are not acceptable to the individual." Irremediable, however, is not qualified in the proposed legislation.

- **Language of Carter:** Lawmakers should **use the language of Carter in legislation**, as this will ensure that the law is compliant with both Carter and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.