

Re: Bill C-14

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

Thank you so much for serving as members of parliament and on this committee. We appreciate the sacrifices you have made for our country.

First of all I would like to ask that you consider the analysis commissioned by ARPA Canada to find a way to still prohibit euthanasia and assisted suicide. Quoting from Arpa Canada:

“It always has been and always will be wrong to kill innocent human beings. Regardless of what Bill C-14 will look like when it receives Royal Assent, as long as it allows any humans to be killed at the hands of the state, it will be broadened, as others who wish to have assistance in dying will demand the same treatment. Any distinction will be arbitrary and eventually struck down as discriminatory. It is crucial that Parliament upholds its duty to protect human life. An independent legal analysis commissioned by ARPA Canada has proven that Parliament can still prohibit all euthanasia and assisted suicide – without invoking the notwithstanding clause – by clarifying in law that the purpose of an absolute prohibition goes beyond what the Supreme Court mistakenly concluded it was in the Carter decision. The Court thought that the objective of the criminal prohibition on assisted suicide was merely to protect vulnerable persons from being induced to commit suicide at a moment of weakness. The Court thought that the objective was not to protect life broadly speaking, or even to prevent suicide. This distinction effectively determined the outcome of the case. But what if the purpose or objective of the assisted suicide law was actually much broader than the SCC thought? Parliament has opportunity now to clarify. Parliament can enact a complete prohibition on assisted suicide, without relying on the notwithstanding clause, by explicitly stating in a new law that the purpose of the prohibition is broader than merely protecting vulnerable persons in a moment of weakness. We respectfully urge Parliament to seize this opportunity while it still can to pass a new law which maintains and enforces the longstanding common law principle of the inviolability of life by prohibiting assisted suicide and euthanasia as acts that are intrinsically legally and morally wrong. An extended legal opinion defending the constitutionality of this option is available at <https://arpacanada.ca/assisted-suicide-total-ban.pdf>”

If this is not done, these amendments are suggested to better protect vulnerable Canadians:

- 1) Remove 227.2 “No person is a party to culpable homicide if they do anything for the purpose of aiding a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner to provide a person with medical assistance in dying in accordance with section 241.2.”

Only Doctors should be allowed to have anything to do with medical assistance in dying.

- 2) 241 (2) Remove “or nurse practitioner”

Only Doctors should be allowed to perform euthanasia

- 3) Remove 241(3) to 241(6) Exemption for person aiding practitioner “No person is a party to an offence under paragraph (1)(b) if they do anything for the purpose of aiding a medical

practitioner or nurse practitioner to provide a person with medical assistance in dying in accordance with 241.2.”

Assisting in death should be restricted to medical practitioners only. Allowing nurses/pharmacists/others to perform or assist in makes Canadians inferior treatment

- 4) 241.2(2)(c): remove the words "or psychological". Add to s. 241.2(2) the following: “(e) a mental illness or psychiatric disorder is not a grievous or irremediable medical condition for the purposes of this section.”

Those suffering solely psychologically are not enduring physical pain and may not be mentally capable of making a life and death situation.

- 5) 241.2(2)(d): Replace “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.” to “their illness is terminal with a prognosis of not more than 3 months.” – the physician must be sure that the specific illness the patient has will cause the patient's death within 3 months.
- 6) 241.2(3)(a): Replace “be of the opinion that the person meets all the criteria...” to “be certain and have documented proof that the person meets all the criteria...”
- 7) Provide conscience protection for medical practitioners who believe it is morally wrong to kill another human being

Thank you so much for your consideration and for serving our nation!!!