

Dear Sir/Madam:

Unfortunately, the “medical assistance in dying” bill is a poor substitute for a properly considered law, and this legislation will open up the door to rampant and out-of-control euthanasia in Canada, just like every other country that has attempted to an assisted dying law with appropriate checks and balances. Bill C-14 contains very few and vague protections, and those it does have will easily be subject to change in future. In short, Canada will quickly go the way of every other jurisdiction in the world that has introduced assisted suicide legislation, with abuse rampant and a culture of suicide encouraged.

The main weaknesses of this legislation are:

1. Inadequate protection against coercion by families, medical personnel and friends of those being offered "choice" in dying.
2. Inadequate palliative care alternatives to assisted suicide.
3. Inadequate conscience protection for staff, medical personnel, and institutions that do not want to have any role whatsoever in assisted suicide.
4. Ambiguous definitions of who qualifies for assisted suicide, and an open door to considering minors and those suffering from non-terminal/mental illnesses in the future. This law would make assisted suicide available to anyone whose death is “reasonably foreseeable.” Since everyone's death is reasonably foreseeable, this effectively excludes no one

I am in shock that after seeing where assisted suicide has gone in every other country, we would willingly embark down the same road.

Please implement the notwithstanding clause immediately so an adequate law can be written rather than this poorly and hastily drafted legislation.

Sincerely,

Paul Schratz