

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

“God keep our Land, glorious and free.” We sing these words at every baseball and hockey game. In the “prosperity index” published by the Legatum Institute of Great Britain, Canada was named the the “freest and most tolerant nation in the world.”

Laws in fact are created to give and protect our freedom. For example, legalization of freedom of speech or the ability to practise any religion has been protected by our government. Our government creates and enforces such laws, and this is what contributes to making Canada the freest nation.

That being said, once a law is created, it’s ramifications must also be measured. The freedom of speech has allowed me to write this letter and publicly declare it. But what are the negative ramifications of a law? Hate spewing of races or government policy is also legally allowed to occur. Even if what is being declared is contrary to popular opinion, these opinions are legally allowed to be expressed.

A patients desire to be free of pain, and a loved one not wanting to watch this person die in agony has brought forth Bill C-14. The legalization of euthanasia is on the table.

The very law that is suppose to “free” someone to make the decision concerning their own life is being weighed on the scales of justice. But what about everyone else’s freedoms?

Doctors, nurses, and health care professionals take an oath to nurture their patients back to Life. Lawyers that uphold the Will of a person who has requested all acts to be performed for the saving of a life must not be constrained in doing their job, nor hinder the executor of the Will.

By far the scariest ramifications of this law as seen in the Netherlands, occurred when a citizen acted on their volition to euthanize their mother without legal consent. The legalizing of euthanasia in the Netherlands to allow the “freedom” of an individual to make their own decision concerning their life, is the very law that protects the son from incrimination for murdering his own mother. It is this law that incriminates healthcare professionals to act against the very oath they made to being a Life care giver.

Where there is freedom, there is life and joy and hope. As a witness to my mother who was “medically” dying, I have understood the tremendous pressure of this very situation. Our whole family, mostly my father was pressured to sign a DNR as soon as my mother arrived in ER. The gravity of her situation was pressing. They put her in palliative care and the immediate attention she required being a cancer patient did not come. We were pressed by the medical staff to consent to her “dying a natural death.” This really meant, slowly increasing her medical doses and not intervening with chemotherapy. Had my father not advocated for his wife, my mother, I know she would not be with us today. Had our family capitulated to the tremendous pressure to let her go “naturally” she would not be breathing.

The greatest and most profound fact about this true LIFE story is that my mother WANTED to live. She was in and out of lucidity. And the reason she lost her full faculties was that she wasn't receiving proper care to greatly decrease the high calcium levels in her blood.

Why? Because the health care professionals had determined she wouldn't live.

A single doctor who remembered his oath and heard the desperate plea of my father said “yes.” He said “yes” to my mother transfer to an oncology hospital in the city. He said “yes” to life because my mother wanted to live, and our family echoed her voice even when she couldn't speak for herself.

So today I am lending my voice to the countless patients that haven't had an advocate, or a family that went to every length to see their loved one's wishes to live upheld. We all have a voice, we all have the right to choose to live. I saw first hand what happens when death is the predetermined judgement by healthcare professionals. Thankfully the doctor in this situation had the right to choose “yes” for the treatment my mother needed.

I am sending this letter as a visible and clear declaration that I am not an advocate for euthanasia or any form of killing. When my children and the next generation look to it's elders to see what we valued in our time, I want them to see a long line of those who advocated for a culture of life over sowing a culture of death.

I desire to see that healthcare professionals are not forced to participate in euthanasia and that loved ones are allowed to decide to advocate for life. This right needs to be protected above the decision of what healthcare individuals may predetermine concerning the patient if the patients wished are to live. I wish to see a Bill passed that protects the rights of those individuals that are not in their "right mind" to choose life and that lets an advocate for Life be heard for those that haven't been given the option to speak.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and considering with gravity of the consequences of this Bill being made a law.

Sincerely,

Melanie van Brugge