

From:

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 12:36 PM

To: Physician-Assisted Dying Committee Comité Aide médicale à mourir

Subject: Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying

I am grateful for the opportunity to present my thoughts to you as you consider the basis for the assisted dying legislation. Canada has now the opportunity to join Belgium as the countries with the most progressive legislation currently available. As it is not likely this issue will be re-visited any time soon, it is hugely important that you get it right this time around.

I want the right to be able to receive assistance from my doctor or NP or palliative care nurse to die peacefully if my physical or mental health becomes so difficult that living is unbearable. I want this same right for all my fellow Canadians, even those living in remote areas or in poverty.

I want us all to be able to write our instructions in a document like an Advanced Directive, that will be honored even if we subsequently become incapacitated due to a stroke or dementia.

If a doctor refuses to provide this service, I want him/her to have a place where a referral can be made (another doctor, or a medical clinic or panel set up for this purpose).

I want to be able to end my life myself at home surrounded by my family, or if I become unable, to have a doctor or nurse end my life for me as per my previous written instructions.

I want all hospitals and other facilities that are funded by taxpayers to be made to follow the law, or provide an alternative place and easy access for their patients.

Thank you.

Susan Bracken