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Sent: February 22, 2016 9:24 AM
To: ~Physician-Assisted Dying Committee Comité Aide médicale à mourir
Subject: Physician-assisted dying legislation
Importance: High

I understand that in a few of the first jurisdictions to enact physician-assisted dying legislation, that one of the criteria was that a person had to be of sound mind at the time of the request. Thus, people with Dementia were excluded.

I am imploring our Government to provide access to physician-assisted dying, a) to people who meet the criteria **and/or** b) to people who have written an official document such as an Advance Directive **while of sound mind** requesting access **for themselves**--if and when they meet the criteria at some time in the future.

It seems to me no different than a Last Will and Testament that was written while still of sound mind and then having it honoured, whether or not in the intervening time, the person happens to have suffered from Dementia. We don't use their Dementia as grounds to negate their Will and neither should we use their Dementia to negate an Advance Directive requesting physician-assisted dying.

I believe the new legislation should make provisions for people to access Physician Assisted Dying, through an Advance Directive for the future, regardless of their mental status at the time when they ultimately meet the criteria. I have witnessed many friends and family in the late stages of dementia and cancer. The toll this takes on the family is unbearable. The person DOES NOT have any quality of life to speak of. We need to let our loved ones die with dignity and respect especially if this was their own wish.

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