

Dear Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights;

I would like to contribute some thoughts on changes to Bill C-7 that has moved so very quickly through the usually more careful and thoughtful process of passing of Bills.

First, I recognize that the physical and mental anguish of many disease processes are daunting for those who experience them. However, by facilitating the ease of choosing euthanasia as a solution to the problem we bring Canadian society into "a regression of civilization, since in a context in which the value of human life is often conditioned by criteria of social utility, economic interest family responsibilities and the burden to the public or public spending, the legalization of early death would add a new set of problems" (Bioethics Committee of Spain (CBE), as printed in the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition's newsletter, Oct. 26, 20). The unintended consequences of unfettered euthanasia are disastrous to a civilization.

Second, A solid commitment to community Palliative Care provides a more compassionate answer to dying with dignity than does euthanasia.

Thirdly, Canada's primary association for well-informed information on everything euthanasia is the 'Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC). There is everything to be gained and nothing to be lost from the Standing Committee accessing the EPC's wealth of knowledge on the subject. I understand they have not as yet been utilized as a resource in forming the all-important wording of Bill C-7.

Thank you for including this information in your decision-making process for the good of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

Susan D. Hitchman