

As a constituent, I wish to express my deep concern at the rush to expand euthanasia/assisted suicide in Canada. The introduction of Bill C-7 will allow more Canadians to seek euthanasia with the full endorsement of the state. I want to be clear that I do not support this legislation. The brief consultation process initiated by the government assumed that all Canadians support euthanasia. This is not the case.

I would ask you to advocate for the following:

— Immediately prioritize access to palliative care for every Canadian – much has been promised with little delivered. If every Canadian had access to quality palliative care, it would reduce the number of requests for euthanasia.

— Press pause on the process. The federal government committed to reviewing the law passed in 2016 within five years before amendments would be made. This has not taken place. Recognizing that at least 13,000 Canadians have been euthanized over the past four years, a careful review is essential given the impact on patients, health care providers and medical professionals. This is truly a matter of life and death – what's the rush?

— Consider the position of constituents that oppose the expansion of euthanasia in our country. Those with disabilities and people who are facing life challenges but who do not have terminal illnesses have the same value as every Canadian. Many of these people already lack access to affordable housing, employment or health care services. These groups are vulnerable and need assisted life not assisted death. This is a human rights issue.

— Protect health care providers who do not wish to participate or refer their patients for euthanasia. This legislation will compel medical professionals who care for their patients to also be involved in facilitating euthanasia.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my concerns and hope you will advocate for the points noted above.

Sincerely,
Luanne Liptay