

To: Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Nov. 12, 2020

The most outspoken critics of euthanasia/assisted suicide have been members of the disabled community. That's because they understand that if, through its laws, society creates the perception that having a disability is a legitimate reason to kill oneself, it will put enormous pressure on other disabled persons to also consider it.

By removing the criterion of a person's death being "reasonably foreseeable", Bill C-7 opens the door for persons with disabilities to "qualify" for a euthanasia killing on the basis of their "physical or psychological suffering that is," according to his/her subjective perspective, "intolerable".

It will send the message to all of society that possessing a disability is a fate worse than death. As a society, could we devalue the inherent dignity of persons living with a disability any more than by expanding euthanasia in this manner? Such a law would tell disabled persons their lives are not worth living. Is that what an enlightened, progressive society ought to be doing?

I believe that this push to expand euthanasia to disabled persons who are not even dying is the height of heartlessness for Justin Trudeau. Just so he can continue to press his "progressive" credentials, he is willing to take the chance of placing a powerful, negative stigma on disabled Canadians that will devalue their lives and potentially result in suicide choices that might otherwise not be made.

There is nothing noble nor heroic about putting the elderly, the disabled and persons suffering with depression at risk. Any Member of Parliament who thinks this is a noble progression, is seriously misguided and not thinking straight.

I feel very frightened of ever being in a hospital due to any illness, but especially the current pandemic in the event that Bill C-7 is passed. I wonder if doctors will tell me I should just die. If I become ill, I would likely just stay home because I believe I would have a better chance of not dying.

I ask you to please consider using your public platform as an MP to speak out against expanding euthanasia and assisted suicide. We can't have the pro-euthanasia media being the only ones to influence public opinion on this critical issue. We need your voice to educate the public on how expanding euthanasia/assisted suicide would put vulnerable persons at risk. Urge Prime Minister Trudeau to invoke the notwithstanding clause so as to legally ignore the Quebec judge's ruling.

Regards,

Robert de Moissac