

My 85 year old mother has had dementia for 15 years. My 86 year old father continues to look after her and we all love her dearly. Only **at our request** was she recently treated with an anti-depressant which has brought back her smiles and laughter and much more comprehension. I was told of the benefits of the anti-depressant by a **friend, not a medical practitioner**.

Again, only **at my request** were we told to use iron supplements with Vitamins C and B12 to increase my mother's hemoglobin levels. I learned by **internet research, not through a medical practitioner**. When we asked the physician to confirm my findings, he asked, "Why do you want to prolong her life?" Can we not even give our seniors a better quality of life in their final years because our insane medical system fears it will prolong their lives? These are our parents, grand-parents, friends!!

15 years ago, when my mother was first diagnosed with dementia and could still communicate, write comprehensively, cook, dress and shower herself, we were told by a mental health nurse to institutionalize her so as to not tire out my father. On his own, my father would still have had to do his own cooking and cleaning. Is one person really that more labour intensive? Yes, my mother often taxes my father's patience, but only very recently his energy levels. At the age of 86, we only needed to increase his respite hours to 9 hours a week.

For the most part, my father loves taking care of my mother as it gives him something meaningful to do in his life. **Keeping them together has kept them much healthier**. My Dad takes the time to encourage my mother to do things herself. She still feeds and washes herself and converses, all because my Dad treats her as his wife, not an invalid. My Dad goes to the exercise room when he gets respite, because he must leave the apartment to the respite workers. My Dad just amazes us with everything he still does, too numerous to list. He is an inspiration to so many seniors.

14 years ago, my mother quit eating because she couldn't taste anything. The doctor **suggested she wanted to die. It turned out to be a reaction to a blood pressure medication**. This same doctor filled out a **do not resuscitate order** for my mother even though she was **still very much cognizant and mobile** at the time.

This is **medical negligence**.

I have a lot of experience with dementia, and I can assure you that to this day my mother comprehends a lot. She answers questions and she makes choices when offered them. She enjoys short stories and asks questions that relate to the story. Much of the time, she seems "out of it", but there are also times when one would never know my mother has dementia. Those times don't last very long, but the memory and the thrill of seeing her as she was do last a long time. A quick examination of my mother would have medical practitioners think she is a "vegetable" especially as she would be nervous and her brain gets stuck in that situation. We, her family, know she is not.

The medical system needs to quit writing off our elderly and treat them as they would anybody else. The government is creating an **inhumane callous and uncaring medical system**, which culminates in practises such as DNR or euthanasia. I live in fear of my mother and other vulnerable seniors being **euthanized merely because they have dementia, depression or loneliness**. Our medical system leaves seniors to die rather than treat them even if they merely get a cold/flu virus, like covid. Seniors can survive covid if they are treated. One senior who survived covid at the Lynn Valley Care Home was 99

years old. My grand-mother was resuscitated from heart attacks twice when in her 80's. She recuperated and lived happily until the age of 91. My 95 year old mother-in-law was pressured to sign a Do Not Resuscitate form, even though she was totally cognizant, walked without a cane, lived in her own home, and climbed the stairs to her room more than twice a day. She wanted to be resuscitated.

According to the American Heart and Stroke Associations, "Scientific evaluation has shown that there are no clear criteria to predict the futility of CPR accurately." They recommend that **all** patients in cardiac arrest receive resuscitation unless the patient has signs of irreversible death: rigor mortis, decapitation, or lividity (physical colouration due to multiple organ failures). A 1999 study determined that the quality of life of survivors of CPR was acceptable. CPR techniques have improved significantly in the last 20 years.

Yet today, much of the rhetoric is for not attempting CPR if it does not confer "acceptable quality of life." Clearly, a younger person has a different idea about acceptable quality of life than an older person. Moreover, many may not realize that their standards for quality of life are going to change as they age. Therefore, no one should be determining who has "quality of life."

In conclusion, I have reached the conclusion that **veterinarians treat animals better than doctors their fellow human beings.**

Death should not be a solution for treatable health issues. Please, we need to love people, all people, no matter what ails them. This is God's will and we will all one day be held eternally accountable for our actions.

Reject Bill C-7.