

Attention Justice Committee of Canada,

Please consider herein, my serious opposition to the passing of Bill C-7.

My background

My name is Debbie. I am 63 years old and the parent of a son with developmental disabilities, which he acquired at birth. I have a deep passion to assist persons with disabilities so that they may grow to their full potential and acquire meaningful employment and experiences in their life. My aim has been to encourage community, relationships, self-determination and individual responsibility so that individuals feel value and worth in their life's. I worked 8 years total, for Columbia College and Nanaimo Association for Community Living, finding meaningful employment for people with developmental disabilities. I also ran a successful sewing program for disabled people and have cared for individuals with disabilities as a home share provider, for the last 12 years. Now I am experiencing the great honor of supporting my father in law through the last years of his life and helping my own parents where needed. Caring for the vulnerable can be very challenging but there is no greater sense of joy than to help meet some one's physical, mental and spiritual needs so that they can feel that they are able to contribute to their own well being as well as to societies.

Bill C-7 Death by euthanasia: Same-day death, death without contemporaneous consent, and death without multiple independent witnesses. **A loveless, convenient end that targets the most vulnerable.**

Bill C-7 does nothing to contribute to a person's quality of life or to the mental health of the people that love them. We need to instill hope in vulnerable people and their families. We need to be providing physical, mental and spiritual care so that people can thrive. Doctors, families and care providers for the vulnerable need to receive encouragement and the tools needed to provide an excellent standard of care. This is how we all benefit. Vulnerable people do often feel like a burden. They struggle with many obstacles and needs as we all will during our lifetime. When we are at our weakest that is when we need family and community the most. That is when we are most vulnerable to making poor decisions that hurt ourselves and those that love us. Most death wishes are transient and have more to do with unmet needs than a desire to end lives. Suicide Prevention should be a priority not an option. This new law would bring us Same Day Death, Death Without Contemporaneous Consent and Death without two Independent Witnesses. At a time that when a vulnerable person would need love and support, they would be offered a loveless, convenient alternative, death by lethal injection.

By implementing this bill C-7 you will be putting the integrity and good conscience of doctors and medical staff at risk. There could be a chance that many caring and conscientious health care workers might leave the field of medicine as they will hold values and principles that would consider this murder dressed up like care. Some professionals' conscience would not allow them to witness or be part of this alternative to end suffering.

It saddens me to even write this letter. Twenty years ago, this would have been considered murder. I wonder how we even got here. I imagine it has been step by step and little by little, down the slippery slope of rationalizing what is wrong and evil, as a benefit to society. C-7 will numb the conscious and suck the soul out of society. Have not we seen enough death through drug overdoses and suicide? Do we need to add this to the pain of our society? We can do better than this Canada. Lets put our money and efforts into finding ways to thrive not ways to die.

Sincerely

Debra Hastings