

**Brief for the Justice Committee on Bill C-7,
An Act to Amend the Criminal Code
(Medical Assistance in Dying)**

Silas McFarlane | November 15, 2020

The act to amend the criminal code (bill C-7) in MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) has proposed a few questionable changes which would do more harm to patients rather than upholding their right to the care and support they need to keep living.

The first proposed change is to remove the requirement for a person's natural death to be reasonably foreseeable in order to be eligible for MAiD. This opens the door for anyone to be eligible for MAiD, including the mentally ill, the disabled, and anyone despairing in life. As a country and a culture, we have always stood against suicidal idealizations. However, we have and are signing into law the legal means of taking someone's life for reasons other than a foreseeable death in the future, which promotes a suicide culture in itself. Among many other Canadians, I stand for those who are suffering and seek treatment for their suffering instead of medically assisted suicide.

We call on the House of Commons to:

- Restore the 10-day reflection period for people whose deaths have been determined to be "reasonably foreseeable"
- Restore the original requirement that a person must give consent to the life-ending procedure immediately before it is performed
- Restore the original requirements for the signatures of two witnesses, who cannot provide personal care to the person seeking to end their life
- Require medical professionals to do everything possible to enable the person to access life-affirming services to relieve their suffering other than physician-assisted death
- Accommodate persons with communication disabilities by clarifying "refusal or resistance to administration" of physician-assisted death

Got from (https://www.garnettgenuismp.ca/no_same_day_death?fbclid=IwAR1TvjQ_0NRszJng3Y038v245AV - LRU2_QMNOiXAptjuczMqn-8R2wc3k)

Let's be a voice for the suffering. Let's improve the quality of life of those suffering by giving them the care and treatment necessary to live. Finally, let's call on all of Canada's representatives to uphold the value of life and of those who are struggling with their health in our society.

First proposal got from: "<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-justice/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-reintroduces-proposed-changes-to-medical-assistance-in-dying-legislation.html>"