

November 14, 2020

#### Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

I have been personally impacted by relatives who suffered from advanced dementia, cancer and clinical depression. In each of these cases the individuals did not want to live. But with medical intervention such as providing a safe caring environment, pain relief and psychotherapy their perspective on life dramatically changed. To quote my father who was diagnosed with advance dementia and placed in a loving, stimulating long term care home said, "Life is wonderful". Three months earlier he wanted to end his life.

It is fear, pain, lack of treatment and not wanting to be a burden on society that drives people to wanting to die. People need more than ninety days to receive significant treatment. One day is ridiculously short. Unfortunately, it is cheaper and faster to remove safeguards for people with chronic conditions and disabilities. I believe, we should not go beyond the minimum requirements needed to meet the Quebec court ruling in removing safeguards. Certainly, it should not be possible to complete the MAID process in a single day or without two independent witnesses.