

Brief To: The House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Re: Bill C-7

Date: November 25, 2020

Dear Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights,

In regards to the Bill C-7, I ask that you kindly and urgently share this with the whole committee.

As a constituent, I wish to express my deep concern at the rush to expand euthanasia/assisted suicide in Canada. The introduction of Bill C-7 will allow more Canadians to seek euthanasia with the full endorsement of the state. I want to be clear that I do not support this legislation. The brief consultation process initiated by the government assumed that all Canadians support euthanasia. This is not the case.

I would ask you to advocate for the following:

— Immediately prioritize access to palliative care for every Canadian – much has been promised with little delivered. If every Canadian had access to quality palliative care, it would reduce the number of requests for euthanasia.

— Press pause on the process. The federal government committed to reviewing the law passed in 2016 within five years before amendments would be made. This has not taken place. Recognizing that at least 13,000 Canadians have been euthanized over the past four years, a careful review is essential given the impact on patients, health care providers and medical professionals. This is truly a matter of life and death – what's the rush?

— Consider the position of constituents that oppose the expansion of euthanasia in our country. Those with disabilities and people who are facing life challenges but who do not have terminal illnesses have the same value as every Canadian. Many of these people already lack access to affordable housing, employment or health care services. These groups are vulnerable and need assisted life not assisted death. This is a human rights issue.

— Protect health care providers who do not wish to participate or refer their patients for euthanasia. This legislation will compel medical professionals who care for their patients to also be involved in facilitating euthanasia.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my concerns and hope you will advocate for the points noted above.

Sincerely,
Melanie Chang

Melanie Chang (Christian)

Growing up I learned of many sacrifices people in my family and outside my family had made, so that I could have a better life than they did. We just celebrated "Remembrance Day" as a holiday to honor strangers to some and loved ones to others who gave up their lives, so that we could live in peace. God and Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17 New King James Version). He did it for all of us. He gave us life as a gift and it is important for us to continue to protect it.

People make sacrifices every day and we work so hard to save lives. Otherwise, what is the point of honoring life, if we make laws like this that contradict it (Bill C-7). What is the point of having doctors, nurses, paramedics, care givers, fire fighters, police officers, etc. All these professions have something in common and it is about fighting for life and it originates in God valuing life. Why do we take oaths in the medical field, in court, and in other situations. Ask yourself where it originated from and what has happened since moving further away from it.

It is my duty to share the truth with you that we have a God who loves us and wants people to turn back to Him, he has been so patient. He is giving us an opportunity right now to do what is right. I and many others are witnesses to His existence, blessings and miracles and I can truthfully say that His Laws matter. They are there in place to keep us safe and an example of how to live, 30 "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." a This is the first commandment. b 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' a There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12: 30-31 New King James Version). To love means to care for one another, sacrifice and remind others they are not burdens. Our loved ones have done so much for us, it is time we speak up for them and show them how much their lives matter and mean to us. I have seen the power one person can have when standing up for life and when others join in. I hope that you will seriously consider this before making your decision. Please ask yourselves with a clear conscience, what effects this Bill and any Bill will have in our lives, our children's lives, our communities, and the entire world. We can set an example for others to see what it truly means to love.

Lastly, there are things happening everywhere, what will happen to the world and people if this law passes, will it show that we value life? We need to think about what the future will look like for everyone and the messages we are sending. There are consequences to our actions or lack of and look at all the lives lost already. Please be a part of the positive change that the world urgently needs. We are praying along with many others for those who are in positions of power to make decisions like this and that they make the right ones. My family and I are praying for a "What Would Jesus Do?" (Sheldon, 1899) revival because we really need one right now. In Jesus name Amen.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please remember your influence matters and is an example to the world, it has power to change things for the better. It can also help save lives when we have lost so many already.

May God be with you and bless you.

Sincerely,

Melanie Chang

Reference List:

New King James Holy Bible. (2015). Thomas Nelson, Inc. (Original work published 1982).

Sheldon, C. M. (1899). *IN HIS STEPS: "WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?"* (Revised Edition). Chicago: Advance Publishing Co.

Makowski, Thomas. (Director). (2010). *What Would Jesus Do?* [Film; DVD release]. Nasser Group, North, NGN Productions, Nasser Entertainment Group.