

Mike MacPherson
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Justice & Human Rights
House of Commons
OTTAWA, ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Recommendations for C-14

I would like to register my outright opposition to Bill C-14 or any other law that weakens protections for vulnerable life or that deems to decide whose life has value and who's doesn't. I believe Bill C-14 is a slippery slope, a Pandora's Box.

In view of this, I would like to add this quote

When Belgium legalized euthanasia, there were assurances that it would be tightly controlled and limited to exceptional cases. But the number of cases rises every year – reaching nearly 2% of total deaths last year — and the definition of what is acceptable is expanding. The country's Senate is currently debating a proposal to permit euthanasia of minors with a "capacity of discernment" and of people suffering from dementia.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/suicide-with-the-approval-of-society-belgian-activist-warns-of-slippery-slope-as-euthanasia-becomes-normal>

I want to be assured that the only medically assisted death I will receive is palliative care that rejects assisted suicide and euthanasia. The structure you are setting up will make people like me fear hospitals and nursing homes.

There are plenty of doctors and nurses willing to euthanize patients in secular health care situations. I don't want them. My family and I need to know I can go someplace to receive care that will not acquiesce to euthanasia or assisted suicide.

I am also afraid that illegalizing euthanasia or assisted suicide could enable doctors to cover-up medical errors by approving death for patients who are unnecessarily suffering.

From a Christian point of view, the Canadian Supreme Court decision on assisted suicide legitimized something that is intrinsically evil. Any Christian medical professionals can not comply. Recognize this by exempting medical professionals with conscientious objections and curtail provincial or professional associations from imposing participation in assisted suicide or forcing them to refer for assisted suicide. Mitigate the extent of this moral evil by endorsing conscience rights for doctors, nurses and pharmacists who have deep moral objections to participating *in any way* with medically assisted suicide. Plus as a Catholic I want and need to be assured that my wishes will be protected.

There are forces at play to force this on them.^[1] Imbed in the legislation recognition of the supremacy of Charter guarantees of freedom of conscience and religion, and its expression (CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, Section 2, (a,b)).

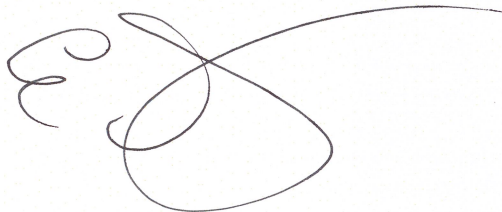
I would like to offer a couple of recommendations:

Recommendation # 1: Ensure places of safe haven exist for anyone, but especially Catholic healthcare institutions, where we know euthanasia and assisted suicide are not practised.

Recommendation #2: Include an amendment to C-14 to recognize and fortify Charter guarantees of freedom of conscience and religion and their expression. Physicians, nurses and pharmacists who have profound conscientious or religious objections to participating, in any way, with euthanasia or assisted suicide must not be forced into it or required to refer patients to doctors who are willing to kill. This must be unequivocal in the legislation! Such emphatic recognition of religious freedom is a hallmark of a pluralistic society.

Thank you for considering my recommendations.

Edith Bradshaw
702, 9808 – 103 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2G4

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'EB' with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

4. May. 2016