

Dear Member of Parliament:

I am writing you today to express my concern about legislation that is being proposed in Parliament to expand the number of people who can qualify for medical assistance in dying (euthanasia). I understand that a Quebec judge has decided that attempts to limit euthanasia to "end of life issues" is unconstitutional. Amendments to the law will open up euthanasia to persons with disabilities.

Health care workers know that persons with disabilities often consider suicide rather than face life with a physical or psychological limitation. Many make this awful choice because of loneliness, isolation, depression, discouragement, poverty and lack of health and social services. I want to live in a compassionate Canada where the vulnerable are loved, supported and cared for, not put to death during a particularly difficult time in their lives. People in these circumstances need to be given assistance to live, not assisted death. Any "safeguard" will not provide sufficient protection.

I am asking you to stand up to the courts and re-establish the authority of Parliament as the voice of the people of Canada who want our country to be one which supports the vulnerable. These changes only add to societal stereotypes that a life with a disability is a life not worth living. By actively killing people with disabilities, the Government of Canada is supporting these stereotypes.

I am also asking you to speak up for our health care professionals and provide conscience protection for them. Our doctors, nurses and health care professionals cannot be forced to participate in any form of Medical Assistance in Dying against their conscience.

Thank you.