

March 6, 2023

To the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

This is my testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 845. I am sorry to see that such legislation is being introduced yet again and again I urge you to say no to this terrible legislation. Once Physician Assisted Suicide is legalized it will put tremendous pressure on the elderly, the handicapped and the mentally ill to end their lives.

I am a friend to many handicapped. I was a caregiver for elderly and sick people as a volunteer with the Missionaries for Charity in Washington DC for fourteen years. I can tell you what people in this situation need is care and appreciation their inestimable value as human beings, not drugs to take them out. It is not pain that makes people choose their own death, it is being unwanted. It is the care we give to each other when times get tough is what really sets us apart as human beings. Physician Assisted Suicide cheapens life by saying the old and handicapped are better off dead.

The other big issue is once you say the yes to some people killing themselves, it will continually expand. In Canada, medically assisted suicide has been expanded to include the mentally ill. Insurance companies and hospitals looking at the bottom line will be pushing suicide as a way to cut costs. I can tell you, when my brother had a stroke, the hospital treated him as "problem" not a person. This legislations will make such attitudes worse.

Again, I urge you to vote against this bill. Use the money that it would take to implement this legislation towards more life affirming care at the end of life and research in better pain control.

Thank you for your consideration

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