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Select Committee on End of Life Choices Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
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To the Chair and Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices,

Thank you for the opportunity to send a submission to your committee to address the Parliamentary inquiry into the End of Life Choices as they stand currently in WA.

As a past nurse practitioner, current mental health program manager and personal experience as a young 25yr old who assisting palliative care agencies, silver chain, 2 of my sisters (both RN's), my father and brothers with nursing my mother at home (1987/88) as her breast cancer progressed, I feel deeply moved to add my name to the list in support of the status quo remaining the same.

I am more than happy to attend and address the committee from a personal perspective and from my current profession. I have presided over a program (recently defunded unfortunately) where part of that funding was directed for Suicide Intervention to individuals. These people were mostly referred through their GP's, hospitals (ED) and other agencies to address their current thoughts on suicide. In the 4years of the program we did not lose 1 suicide referral.

Intervention works. Engagement for those who find themselves in a situational crisis or with more longstanding depression when done properly, will assist them beyond their current mental health. Only on Friday 20/10 I had a 50plus male attend our office to thank us for the support, intervention and commitment we gave to him when he presented to us one day in an extremely vulnerable state. He could not thank us enough. It was so gratifying to see someone come through the other side, especially as I had known how unwell he was. **Suicide prevention works.** By legalizing assisted suicide you are **sending a confusing message (especially to young people)** that life can be ended when one chooses regardless of supports that are out there. It's remarkable that on the one hand federal and state governments are throwing money at suicide prevention programs and then on the other hand we are talking about endorsing suicide through the use of cover up terminology such as *assisted or end of life choices*.

**Life is Life,
even when you are old, frail and unwell.**

Kind regards,
Monique Bertino-Clarke
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