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Ms. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Chair
Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000



11 October 2017

Re: Decriminalisation of caring

I am writing in support of law reform that will allow voluntary euthanasia. In particular, I would like to see the repeal of the existing law that criminalises being present when someone chooses to end their life.

Such a law is a form of vengeance and is intended to intimidate and/or punish those that are present when a person chooses suicide (a legal act) for whatever reason. That is, to assign criminality to being present during an act that is not a crime.

Getting rid of such laws has been done in the USA in a few cases, which are documented in the excellent book by Richard Cote entitled "In search of Gentle Death: The Fight for Your Right to Die with Dignity". For reference, the work of Humphrey in preparing the 'Humane and Dignified Death Act' later called the Death With Dignity Act was Published in the January 1986 issue of the Hemlock Societies' Quarterly Newsletter.

I wish to propose that we give this matter serious consideration.

Yours faithfully

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