

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: Submission: End of Life Choices Inquiry

From: David Winkel

Sent: Thursday, 12 October 2017 9:58 AM

To: Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices

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Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices.

I come from Canada where this same issue has been on the table. I think it is good to remember that euthanasia comes from the language of the ancient Greeks. You might know it literally means "good death". This was used in ancient times to describe a good death obviously. What was meant by a good death was basically what we know as palliative care. Many of us are being deceived to think that being killed by a doctor is a good death. Doctors are supposed to help their patients live and not terminate our beating hearts. I believe we should continue to promote a culture of life instead of a culture of death. Yes, people are hurting and in pain, but let us help with pain relief and give them comfort instead of murdering them with their consent as they lay there. Also, in Europe it has been shown that once legalized, abuse does and will happen (see Belgium studies). There will be cases of murder without consent. One might say "it is not murder". According to the dictionary it currently is and if the law changes, are we really so naive to think there is nothing wrong with it now that we have changed the law?

Anyhow, I do not envy your task and I thank you for listening. I wish you all the best and much insight and strength.

David Winkel