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August 17th, 2004

The Secretariat
Senate Legal and Constitutional committee
Room S 1 . 61
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Criminal Code Amendment (Suicide Related Material Offence) Bill 2004

I wish to register my very strong objection to this proposed Bill

I believe it is a gross invasion civil liberty.

Surely in a Democratic country people have the right to make a decisions about their personal issues if it does not harm or adversely affect others in their community.

Given the advances in medical science it is possible to prolong life in often unendurable circumstances - each person has the right to decide what is unendurable for him/her and to be able to end suffering as humanely as possible when this point has been reached.

It is not possible for one person to judge what is 'endurable' for another and to legally take away that person's right of self determination is outrageous.

The proposed penalties would be laughable if they were not so serious - they are totally out of proportion with regard to the supposed offence.

I understand suicide is not illegal - people should be entitled and enabled to access information which would allow them to make considered and informed decisions on this matter.



Dorothy Trezise