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**Sent:** Sunday, 16 March 2008 8:31 PM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** the Andrews Act

Mr Peter Hallahan,  
Secretary,  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

I write in support of Senator Brown's Bill to overturn the Andrew's (anti-) Euthanasia Act. That such an Act should currently be enforceable in Australia demeans our image as a society where freedom of choice is upheld as a central pillar of our way of life. A right to die is a human right. It differs from the so-called right to life proposition in that it covers a premeditated personal decision by the individual involved. The argument against the concept of euthanasia is based ultimately on religious opinions. These religious opinions are not those of most in our democratic society and therefore should not be written into law. The foundation of the religious argument is that God/Son/Holy Spirit giveth and taketh away. Recent evidence from in vitro fertilisation shows that this Trinity (or contorted Singularity) is not the giver of life. Nor, in any reasoned extra-doctrinal sense, can it be the taker of life. Ethics and morals are touted by the religious as if they alone are the gatekeepers. History and contemporary world events show how false these claims are. Like many others, I reserve the right to end my life or ensure it is ended if it becomes intolerable to me and those around me. I have obeyed the laws of the land throughout my life but I will not obey an ill-conceived, religiously biased and inhumane law if the time comes to end my life. What a nonsense the law becomes to apply it after the deed is done. It cannot surely be designed to punish people after death so it can only be an attempt to humiliate those who are left behind. How bizarre it is that to circumvent an acknowledged religious politician's brainchild, ordinary rational people risk prosecution or are forced to go to Mexico for drugs that can end their torment with dignity. I wonder how many of today's supporters of the Act will seek ways around it at the bitter end.

I commend the Brown Bill to all members of the committee. I would, as an ordinary citizen, do whatever I can to support it and I ask members who have compassion and understanding of the human condition to vote for it.

Edward Robinson  
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