
From: David Harris
Sent: Monday, 31 March 2008 2:03 PM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Rights of the Terminally Ill

Dear Sir,

I write supporting Senator Bob Browns bill concerning the rights of the terminally ill.

I recently had the appalling experience of watching a good friend die of a brain tumour. When he was diagnosed, and given a very short time to live, he said that while he could enjoy the company of his family and friends, he wanted to stay alive, but when the pain and indignities became too great, he wanted to decide when to die. He had inconclusive discussions with various doctors to this end. After surgery, radio therapy and chemotherapy, his disease progressed so rapidly that he became unable to speak, and ended his life, exactly as he didn't want to, in a hospital bed, with tubes going in and out of every orifice. His wife told me that the doctors couldn't be sure of how much pain he was experiencing, but "when we see him crying, we increase the pain relief"

How obscene.

I hope that I will never find myself in the same predicament, but if I do, I want to decide my own fate, and I specifically do not want to have it decided for me, by people who have based their denial of my rights on a religion which I do not share, and which in fact, I abhor.

I urge the senate to pass Senator Browns bill as a matter of urgency,

Yours Sincerely,

David Harris