

Julie A Telenta



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18 March 2008

Peter Hallahan  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

The Committee,

Please accept this submission in support of legalising **voluntary** euthanasia.

Although I am only in my fifties and in good health I intend to maintain by continuing to have a healthy lifestyle of good nutrition and exercise, to me, voluntary euthanasia is an act of caring; it is wrong to describe it as killing, as many opponents of voluntary euthanasia do.

Having watched some close relatives and friends lose control of their lives and independence and live out their last months in misery with little dignity in a nursing home. I do not fear the pain of an illness, and there is palliative care for those who wish it, but it is the loss of control over vital faculties and total dependence on others that is a big issue for me. My understanding is that if euthanasia is available it is often not used as the person can relax knowing they are in control and if they wish, they can die with dignity at a time of their own choosing.

Anecdotaly we all know that some doctors help people die, and they do not always get their consent. This is because it cannot be discussed. It will be much better to have voluntary euthanasia regulated so that it can be brought into the open and available to those who desire a peaceful and dignified end to their lives at a time of their own choosing.

It would give me confidence in my doctor to know that she would be willing, in the last resort, to help me to die at my request **IF** and when I needed euthanasia.

Yours faithfully



Julie Telenta