

19th March 2007

Sandra & Ray Milne
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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sirs,

Submission re: Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008

We are writing in support of the above-mentioned Bill presented by Senator Bob Brown.

Firstly, we believe it was wrong and undemocratic of the previous Government, regardless of their opinions about voluntary euthanasia, to over-turn the Northern Territory's legislation. Senator Brown's bill would redress that wrong.

Secondly, the ability to be able to choose a clean and peaceful death when all quality of life has departed leaving only suffering and indignity, should be everyone's basic right. We should not be forced to exist in misery because a small minority claim "life is sacred" or "suffering is good for the soul" or "it is wrong to deliberately take a life" etc. Let those people suffer if that is what they wish but don't make us suffer as well.

Our father was very sick at the time the Territory legislation was enacted and we saw the peace it gave him just knowing that when his condition worsened he would be able to end it all. He was angered when the Andrew's Bill was passed and the ultimate distressing manner of his death could have been avoided had compassionate voluntary euthanasia legislation been available to him.

Please recommend the passage of this Bill.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Irene Milne

Malcolm Ray Milne