



Euthanasia Legislation

I am writing to express my support for Senator Brown's Bill to overturn the Andrews Euthanasia Laws Act, which I understand is being considered by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee.

I am an octogenarian and am glad to be able to say that I am in reasonably good health - considering my vintage! However, I am painfully aware that this condition could change for the worse suddenly and unexpectedly. Having been independent from an early age, I do not relish the possibility of becoming a burden, alike for myself and others, towards the end of my life.

I accept, calmly I hope, the inevitability of death, but like so many others I am apprehensive about the process of dying. This fear has been reinforced by having in recent times witnessed the slow, painful and undignified death of a friend of my own age. He spent his last years in the so-called nursing section of a retirement village, where, no doubt despite the best efforts of the staff concerned, the standard of care was woefully inadequate. He suffered greatly, mentally and physically, and longed for the speedy end which we would afford to animals in similar circumstances, but which was, alas, denied him as a human being.

Although I disagree with them, I respect the views of those who, for religious or other reasons, oppose voluntary euthanasia. But I feel, strongly, that individual ideology should not be allowed to override a compassionate and rational approach to what is admittedly a very difficult and controversial problem.

I urge your Committee to give favourable consideration to Senator Brown's proposals.

Yours truly



John Woodrow

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