

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

SUBMISSION RE:

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the above-mentioned Bill.

Senator Brown's Bill redresses the wrong and undemocratic act taken by the previous Federal Government to over-ride the Northern Territory's Act, which was validly made by a Parliament constituted of elected representatives.

There are many safeguards in the original Territory Law which would prevent misuse and there was no sound reason for it to be over-ridden. Any reasons based on aspects of faith should be left to the individual and should never be allowed to over-ride choices made by those who do not share those particular opinions.

Voluntary Euthanasia must be allowed as an act of personal choice. Moreover, the ability to be able to choose a quick, peaceful and painless death when all quality of life has gone, leaving only suffering and indignity, should be considered as a basic human right.

Tragically the reality for some patients is that they are beset by physical and mental suffering that is not only beyond their endurance but also beyond the capacity of even sophisticated palliative care to ameliorate. In these circumstances Voluntary Euthanasia must be available as a compassionate option.

I ask the Commission to recommend the passage of this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Zelda Bailey.