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**From:** Susan R  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 March 2008 3:43 PM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** submission in support of the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008

Peter Hallahan,  
Committee Secretary,  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

I am an old lady, in reasonable health at present, and fully able to decide that I do not want to end my life in a hospital/nursing home bed with no control over my body or life. I have conversed with many people of my age and older, and have not met a single one who would want this.

What I fear is that if I am not lucky enough to die suddenly I will be forced to endure an enclosed existence not of my choosing, watching myself waste away, or even not aware of who I was. I want to live life, and die. I do not want an interim state of existence - a living death, someone else's idea of 'life'.

Medical science has improved over the years at being able to keep people living. We need society to 'catch up', and give people the right to say, 'If I reach such-and-such a stage, and I am physically unable to end life, I give you permission to do it for me.'

Only then will I feel that I can enjoy life without having to worry that I might have to cut it short because I can't trust society to do the right thing at the appropriate time - as that lady in France couldn't trust the law in her own country to help her when she needed help. She could have died with her family around her, celebrating the lovely life she obviously had had. Instead, the lawmakers denied her this. They abandoned her to die alone.

The people of the Northern Territory are forward thinkers. Till the rest of the country catches up, if this Bill is passed at least I won't have so far to travel, and shouldn't have to break any laws to do what I want at the appropriate time, if that proves necessary.

Susan Robinson