

SUBMISSION ADDRESSED TO BILL: *Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008*

I do not agree with euthanasia in any form.

This Bill does not address the real problem that terminally ill people face.

I believe that if a patient is counselled and has competent and compassionate medical care they would not need to feel that their life was a burden on relatives or the system. We have given people the impression that once their active life is over they are useless. This is not so and they can still live a very satisfying life until they die with the appropriate available palliative care.

This Bill is flagging voluntary euthanasia but we have seen from other countries such as the Netherlands and Belgium that there is a fine line between voluntary and involuntary euthanasia. Belgium is exploring opening euthanasia to dementia patients and to teenagers who we all know can get depressed with daily life but who grow out of their depression in later teens when their lives become more stable. The Nazis whom we abhor professed much the same attitudes for different reasons but the same results. Holland has the dubious distinction of providing euthanasia for the disabled, the chronically ill, the depressed and also 900 people per year whose lives are "terminated without request or consent" as they call it. They also engage in eugenic infanticide with no one reprimanding the doctors or bringing them to court for what is essentially murder.

We use the reasoning that we are being compassionate and caring to allow people to kill themselves when that is the easy way for us as it requires us to give nothing of ourselves and the problem just goes away.

It is time we as a nation took stock of our attitudes to the elderly and disabled as well as those who are terminally ill and we should decide that these people need care - not extermination.

I do hope that you will not change the laws of our country and start a whole train of events as has happened overseas. It is time we looked for good solutions which take into account the dignity of each person.

Nola Drum,