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19th March, 2008

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express support for The Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill 2008.

I wish to record in the strongest possible terms my support for legalising voluntary euthanasia.

Please accept this submission in support of legalising voluntary euthanasia.

Voluntary euthanasia is an act of caring; it is wrong to describe it as killing, as opponents of voluntary euthanasia do.

Legalising voluntary euthanasia, as an option of last resort in medical practice, will encourage greater research into cures.

It is not only the possibility of pain, though that is bad enough, if it cannot be relieved. What concerns me is lingering on, when all hope of a reasonable quality of life is gone.

I am now (57) years old. I want the peace of mind that the legal option of voluntary euthanasia would give me if my dying process became too awful. It would be such a relief.

It is my life and I should have the right to say when I have had enough.

It would give me confidence in my doctor to know that he/she would be willing, in the last resort, to help me to die at my request.

I do not believe that a loving God would want us to endure unnecessary suffering at the end of life.

When we are suffering with no reasonable prospect of a cure, we should be able to say we have had enough.

We should all have the choice of asking for help to die if we are terminally ill and suffering intolerably. A doctor should be allowed to help me without fear of breaking the law.

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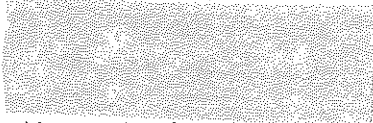
The current situation places doctors in a terrible position. They dare not discuss the subject because it is illegal. The patients are in a worse position for the same reason.

I do not fear the pain but loss of control over vital faculties and total dependence on others is a real concern to me.

We all know that doctors help many people die, and they do not always get their consent. This is because it cannot be discussed. It will be much better to have voluntary euthanasia regulated so that it can be brought into the open.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Yours faithfully,

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Verena Gardner (Mrs)

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