

To: Mr. Peter Hallahan, Committee Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

Submission re: Rights of the Terminally Ill [Euthanasia Laws Repeal] Bill 2008]

We have seen the indignities suffered by ten family members and friends who died from various forms of cancer. Be quite clear that these indignities include sick, loss of bladder control, and loss of bowel control.

Initially family members [husband, wife, son, daughter] must do the cleaning. The thought leaves us at a loss for words. Subsequently, paid carers to the job. What a position of power for one human being over another! Currently the patient has no say in the matter and that is unacceptable.

Palliative care is offered as a solution to pain management. However, we have seen family members drugged to an almost comatose state wince with pain at the touch of carers who were trying to clean the body. We have seen tubes coming from the orifices. This is an abominable situation which we do not wish to suffer.

We consider it undemocratic and a violation of our Rights that a small majority of Parliamentarians vote, not as Representatives, but according to their own wishes.

We consider it undemocratic and a violation of our Rights that religious organisations have such an overwhelming input. We do not object to them banning Euthanasia for their own members, but they have no business in imposing their views on us.

We are writing to urge that you support the Rights of the Terminally Ill [Euthanasia Laws Repeal] Bill 2008.