
From: June Reeder
Sent: Sunday, 30 March 2008 4:37 AM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: The Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008

Mr Peter Hallahan
Secretary
Senate Legal & Constitutional Committee

I am registering my support for Bob Brown's Bill for an Act to repeal the Euthanasia Laws Act 1997 (Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill 2008).

This bill covers issues confronting many hopelessly ill people who want to choose a concept of voluntary euthanasia whether with a terminal illness or in the case of the frail elderly, multiple degenerative conditions. This later group of people are often dismissed by professional carers as depressed and therefore are not listen to. But with Advance Directives now being put into place although not yet legal, they feel their wishes will be understood.

You would be aware of the growing number of educated elderly people seeking access to accurate and reliable end-of-life information to assist in their decision making with partners and/or families by attending workshops or accessing reliable websites on the internet

Most of these people having experienced the dreadful suffering either of a friend or family member that is taking place within our inadequate system for dealing with the end of life.

Palliative care is improving if you can secure a placement, prior to that stage the idea of living in a nursing home for 3, 8, 16 years, having pureed meals which spill over your bib, and not remembering your closest family (as some of my family and friends) does not appeal.

This is about individual choice, and the right to choose a humane method of a dignified death by compassionate professionals.

June Reeder