
From: Jennifer Anne Wightman
Sent: Sunday, 30 March 2008 5:23 PM
To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill 2008

To Peter Hallahan, Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee.
Parliament House, Canberra

Dear Mr Hallahan,

I am writing to support of the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008. I have been a member of the SA Voluntary Euthanasia Society for several years, and believe each individual should have the right to choose their time of death when facing incurable illness. I have also been a trained nurse, and worked at the Julia Farr Centre, where I observed several heart-rending cases of people whose quality of life could not be preserved. While I firmly believe we each must make our own decision about our own life, I do not wish to find myself ever in the position of some of those people. I was most disappointed when the NT Bill was overturned by the Federal Government, since it seemed to me to be a balanced approach to this undoubtedly difficult problem.

I also nursed a dear friend with incurable brain cancer, whose doctor in the last stages had given her enough morphine "to kill a horse", in his words, but which had no effect, because of her medical condition, so that she lingered, paralysed and distressed, for some time. There should be a more humane way to manage such a death, if it is the wish of the sufferer.

Therefore, I strongly support Bob Brown in his attempt to introduce this Bill, and join with the three-quarters of Australian citizens who desire the right to choose euthanasia for themselves in the event of incurable illness.

Jennifer A. Wightman