MEMORANDUM

TO: Prime Minister Trudeau and Members of the Senate and the House of Commons

FROM: Margaret Dore, Esq., MBA
Choice is an Illusion, a nonprofit corporation

RE: “No” on Bill C-14; The bill violates Carter and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (No Assisted Suicide; No Euthanasia)

DATE: May 15, 2016

INDEX

I. INTRODUCTION ........................................... 1

II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL BACKGROUND ......................... 2

A. Definitions: Physician-Assisted Suicide; Assisted Suicide; and Euthanasia .................. 2

C. Withholding or Withdrawing Treatment is Not Assisted Suicide or Euthanasia ............... 3

D. Elder Abuse is a Pervasive Problem Throughout Canada; it Includes the Financial Exploitation and Murder of Older Adults .................. 3

E. Victims Do Not Report ..................................... 4

III. CARTER .................................................... 5

IV. THE BILL .................................................... 6

A. What the Bill Does ........................................ 6

B. How the Bill Works ........................................ 6

V. PATIENTS MAY HAVE YEARS, EVEN DECADES, TO LIVE .................................. 6

A. Doctor Predictions of Life Expectancy Can Be Wrong ........................................ 7
B. Treatment Can Lead to Recovery ............... 7

VI. THE BILL VIOLATES CARTER ....................... 8

B. The Bill Violates Carter Because it does
Not Require a “Competent” Adult Who
“Clearly Consents” ............................ 8

1. The bill does not use the word,
“competent” ............................ 8

2. The bill can be read as allowing
persons who are “incompetent” to
obtain assisted suicide/euthanasia .... 9

C. The Bill Violates Carter Because There is
No “Carefully Designed and Monitored System
of Safeguards” ............................. 9

1. There is a complete lack of
oversight at the death ............ 10

2. “Monitoring” is not required ....... 11

3. The bill discourages
investigations ..................... 12

4. Deaths by assisted suicide/
euthanasia are “deemed” to be
the result of an “illness,
disease or disability” which
will preclude prosecution
for murder ....................... 12

5. The “independence” safeguard is
illusory ............................. 13

VII. THE BILL VIOLATES THE CHARTER .......... 14

VIII. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS ...................... 14

A. Legal Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia Will
Allow Canada’s Healthcare System to Steer
Individuals to Suicide ..................... 14
A. The Argument Against Physician Assisted Suicide
B. Physician Assisted Suicide Can Be Traumatic for Family Members
C. My Clients in Washington and Oregon
D. In Oregon, Other Suicides Have Increased with Legalization of Physician-Assisted Suicide; the Financial Cost is “Enormous”
IX. CARTER IS WRONG
X. CONCLUSION

APPENDICES