TO: The Members of the Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria

FROM: Margaret Dore, Esq., MBA, President
Choice is an Illusion, a nonprofit corporation opposed to assisted suicide and euthanasia

RE: Reject “Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill,” allowing non-voluntary euthanasia for non-dying people

• “Eligible” persons can have years or decades to live
• Assisting persons can have an agenda
• Patient protections are unenforceable
• The bill allows legal murder
• Passage will traumatize patients and families

DATE: October 29, 2017

INDEX

I. INTRODUCTION .................................................. 1
II. DEFINITIONS ................................................. 1
III. ASSISTING PERSONS CAN HAVE AN AGENDA .......... 2
IV. PUSHBACK AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE ................. 2
V. FEW US STATES ALLOW ASSISTED SUICIDE ............ 3
VI. HOW THE VICTORIA BILL WORKS ......................... 3
VII. THE BILL APPLIES TO PEOPLE WITH YEARS TO LIVE ... 4
    A. Treatment Can Lead to Recovery ...................... 4
    B. Predictions of Life Expectancy Can Be Wrong .... 5
    C. If Victoria Follows Oregon, the Bill Will Apply to People With Chronic Conditions Who Have Decades to Live ............. 6
VIII. THE BILL APPLIES TO OLDER PEOPLE. 7
   A. Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation. 7
   B. Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation Are Sometimes Fatal. 8
   C. Victims Do Not Report. 9
IX. THE BILL CREATES THE PERFECT CRIME. 10
   A. “Even If a Patient Struggled, Who Would Know?”. 10
   B. The Cause of Death Will Be Registered as a “Disease, Illness or Medical Condition,” Which Will Prevent Prosecution for Murder. 10
X. PATIENTS OTHERWISE LACK PROTECTION. 11
   A. Participants in a Death Are Required to Act in “Accordance” With the Bill, Which Renders Patient Protections Unenforceable. 11
   B. In an Orwellian Twist, the Term, “Self-Administer,” May Allow Someone Else to Administer the Lethal Dose to the Patient. 12
X. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. 14
   A. The Swiss Study: Physician-Assisted Suicide Can Be Traumatic for Family Members. 14
   B. My Clients Suffered Trauma in Oregon and Washington State. 15
   C. In Oregon, Other Suicides Have Increased with Legalization of Physician-Assisted Suicide. 15
   D. The Oregon Statistics Provide Little, If Any, Support for the Idea That the Passage of the Bill Is Needed Due to Physical Pain. 16
XI. CONCLUSION 17
APPENDIX