

From: [Inquiry into End of Life Choices POV eSubmission Form](#)
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into End of Life Choices
Date: Thursday, 9 July 2015 12:21:27 PM

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into End of Life Choices

Mrs. Julie Grimstad

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am opposed to the legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia.

No one knows what the future holds. Whether a person has a few minutes, hours, days, weeks, months or years, one still has a future and every last minute counts. It is fear of the unknown -- fear of future pain and suffering -- that causes many people to despair and ask for assisted suicide or euthanasia. I understand that fear, but also know that facing fear with courage, not opting out of life when it gets rough, is a legacy for one's loved ones.

My brother Don became a quadriplegic because of a diving accident. At first he wanted to die, but then, with help and an improved living situation, he got a new lease on life. He lived for 11 years with his disability, enjoying and being loved by his children and other family and friends and had a fulfilling life. If assisted suicide had been legal in the early months after Don's injury, I have no doubt he would have chosen that path instead of life with a disability. Everyone who knew Don is grateful that we had those 11 years with him. We treasure the memories. Because he wasn't offered the choice to kill himself, my big brother became a hero who bravely learned to live again after he became paralyzed.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, in her 1969 book *On Death and Dying*, wrote: "Lots of my dying patients say they grow in bounds and leaps, and finish all the unfinished business. ... But assisting a suicide is cheating them of these lessons, like taking a student out of school before final exams."

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