

THE SECRETARY,
TO THE LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE.

Submission 203

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Dear Mrs. Topic,

May I please make a submission to your Committee.

The recurrent push for a "voluntary euthanasia" is a great threat to our society because it diminishes a person's dignity. In my 30 years as a medical practitioner and now as a Minister of Religion I have seen many instances of human suffering. However what has struck me is the effectiveness of a caring person (s) coming into this situation of suffering and at times hopelessness. Even if the illness is inevitably fatal, a little human kindness can make the world of difference. The afflicted person becomes happier, and even can become contributors to the pleasure and happiness of other people. Current Palliative care is very effective, and even more so if administered by caring, kind nurses. In my experience palliative care nurses are generally kind and caring which helps a person pass from this life into the next life much easier. I hope and pray that euthanasia never becomes part of our lives.

Yours Sincerely

DR. PETER FERWERDA