

June 26, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Julie Bonneville. I am a public elementary school music teacher with the Riverside School Board on Montreal's south shore. I am 52 years old

I believe that euthanasia and assisted suicide are wrong. I strongly disagree with their legalization. I back up my view with the view of Hippocrates himself! I also back it up with my personal experience taking care of my two elderly parents, an experience which has brought with it a sense of fulfillment, happiness and a feeling of a debt repaid.

The Hippocratic oath states: *“ I will prescribe regimens for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone. I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked.”* Wise Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, is telling us that any direct action to stop a human life is wrong.

I sympathize with the pain and suffering that can seem endless for certain elderly persons or individuals with a debilitating illness, but the field of medicine has advanced so far that pain can be managed and controlled from day to day.

Here is my personal story:

My father is 89 and my mother is 87. My father has advanced **supranuclear palsy**, a form of Parkinson's disease. He can no longer walk, wash, or eat his food independently. In January of 2009 I moved in to live with my elderly parents at their home in Brossard, Quebec. I am happy living with them, and they are very happy as well. We are growing closer. I feel needed and useful. They feel more secure and more loved. Sometimes it is not easy to deal with my father's condition. Yet I believe that my presence and aid has enlarged my heart, and makes me a stronger and happier person. The suffering of individuals can bring goodness in the people who surround them; people who otherwise would live rather selfishly. If my family had considered euthanasia or assisted suicide, it would have cut that happiness.

I fear that the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide would open the door to abuse, people taking the law into their own hands, and the handicapped and the elderly being

pressured in subtle ways to “choose to die.” I am terrified at the ramifications of such legalization.

Instead of favouring legal euthanasia, please join me in encouraging the *improvement* of quality of life for the suffering, handicapped and terminally ill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie Bonneville

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