

In support of the Private Senator's Bill, sponsored by Senator Bob Brown, to amend the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* to repeal the provision which enables the Governor-General to disallow and recommend amendments to any Act made by the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly I hereby submit my reasons.

I am appalled to think that as an Australian if I were to relocate to the NT, ACT or Norfolk Island, as many Australians do during their working life, I would automatically become a second class citizen with the same rights as those living in the Australian States.

What would be the point of voting in a government to represent the people if the Federal government could overrule decisions at any time because it did not suit them? I see this as an abuse of power and such an abuse is a very serious offence to those whose wishes are then ignored.

This bill is getting a lot of publicity as a result of the overturning in 1997 of the Rights of the Terminally Ill Act of the NT 1996 but it goes much deeper than one bill. It represents the loss of the people to govern themselves.

I believe that a conscience vote means the conscience of the politician and not those of his or her constituents responsible to electing him/her to that position of trust.

In the matter of the ROTI law which was overturned it was a bill which permitted choice and control over end-of-life decisions for the patient and not a law demanding that the sick, maimed or elderly to request physician assisted dying. There is a great difference and I refer to the countries which now have proper legislation and it works well and doesn't permit abuse of such a law. eg. Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the States of America; Montana, Washington State and Oregon.

Yours faithfully,  
(Mrs) June Henderson