

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Bruce Trousdel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 March 2008 10:49 AM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** THE RIGHTS OF THE TERMINALLY ILL (EUTHANASIA LAWS REPEAL) BILL 2008

Mr Peter Hallahan  
Secretary  
Senate Legal & Constitutional Committee

To: Legal & Constitutional Committee (Senate)

I am writing to register my strong support for The Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008..

If we Australians regard ourselves as a humane, caring society, then surely we should not be denying a terminally ill, suffering, person of mature age and sound mind the right to have a pain free, peaceful death at the time of his or her own choosing.

I also strongly believe it should not be unlawful for a qualified medical practitioner to offer advice or make available the means for such a terminally ill and suffering person to end his or her life, subject of course, to appropriate safeguards. We all know that in the real world doctors every day help people to die, and they do not always get their consent. This is because it cannot be discussed. Surely it would be better to have voluntary euthanasia regulated and brought into the open.

As Bob Brown correctly states in his second reading speech the legal right to die with dignity has been available to the citizens of The Netherlands, Belguim, Oregon in the USA, Isreal and Albania and Switzerland. In these countries there has been no significant increase in the numbers choosing this option, and in the Netherlands the percentage of deaths as a result of euthanesia has decreased.

Why is it that politicians are so opposed to euthanasia when they show so little concern about the millions of people dying every day of starvation, disease, war, etc. What sense does it make keeping terminally ill people alive against their wishes when these medical resources are in such short supply. I just cannot understand the thinking of politicians other than to think it has more to do with retaining seats than with morality, religious beliefs, compassion, and caring for the terminally ill, suffering aged persons.

Finally I would draw the attention of the Committee members to the case of the terminally ill, and horribly disfigured French lady whose suffering could not be relieved because of side effects of morphine, who had no quality of life, and who wanted to die, but was denied that assistance because of French laws. She ultimately found the means to end her life without that assistance. (See attached article)

The democratically elected parliament of the Northern Territory furthermore should be able to enact laws without having them overturned by Federal Parliament. Why have state and territory governments if they have no legislative power?

Senators I implore you to show compassion and allow the passage of the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008. (After all every opinion poll over the past two decades has shown around 70% of Australians support the concept of voluntary euthanasia)

25/03/2008

Yours sincerely

Bruce Trousdell





**From:** Saved by Windows Internet Explorer 7  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 March 2008 2:58 PM  
**Subject:** Disfigured euthanasia advocate found dead - World - BrisbaneTimes

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Chantal Sebire before and after her illness.  
Photos: AFP

**Disfigured euthanasia advocate found dead**

Mikael Holter | March 20, 2008 - 9:19AM

PARIS - A French woman with a rare, painful and disfiguring facial tumour who had sought doctor-assisted suicide was found dead today at her home in

eastern France, a government official said.

The case of 52-year-old Chantal Sebire had drawn headlines across France and revived a national debate about the right to die.

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**YOUR SAY: Right to die**  
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Sebire's body was found at her home in the eastern town of Plombieres-les-Dijon in the Bourgogne region this afternoon.

The cause of her death was not immediately known, Dijon prosecutor Jean-Pierre Allachi said.

On Monday, a court in the city of Dijon rejected Sebire's request to be allowed to receive a lethal dose of barbiturates under a doctor's supervision.

It refused the request for doctor-assisted suicide because of French law and out of concern for medical ethics.

Sebire had told the court she did not want to endure further pain and subject herself to an irreversible worsening of her condition.

Sebire's case caught France's attention when the media published heartbreaking before-and-after pictures that made her suffering instantly apparent.

The tumour burrowed through her sinuses and nasal cavities, causing her nose to swell to several times its original size, and pushing one of her eye sockets out of her head.

Sebire, a former schoolteacher who has children aged 29, 27 and 13, was diagnosed nearly eight years ago with esthesioneuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer.

The illness had left her blind, and with no sense of smell or taste, her lawyer said.

She could not use morphine to ease the intense eye pain because of the side effects.

Sebire had said she would not appeal the decision rendered Monday and that she would find life-terminating drugs through other means.

"I now know how to get my hands on what I need and if I don't get it in France, I will get it elsewhere," she said.

French legislation adopted in 2005 allows families to request that life-support equipment for a terminally ill patient be switched off, but it does not allow a

doctor to take action to end a patient's life.

Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are the only European Union countries that currently allow euthanasia.

In Switzerland, counsellors or physicians can prepare a lethal dose, but patients must take it on their own.

**AP/AFP**

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