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PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WORRIED OVER REINTRODUCTION OF EUTHANASIA BILL

People with disabilities who oppose euthanasia are deeply troubled at the reintroduction of a bill by the Couillard government on “Medical Aid in Dying.”

Bill 52 received unanimous support when it was filed by motion in the National Assembly on May 22, since the Liberal leader Philippe Couillard forbade his MNAs from opposing its reintroduction.

Bill 52 promised palliative care to Québecers and would have allowed euthanasia under the euphemism of “Medical Aid in Dying.”

Many activists with disabilities believe the new bill will be disastrous in combination with the budget cuts announced by the liberal government.

Health services, palliative care and home care will be reduced by the cuts. More and more people with disabilities will find themselves sick, desperate and without any choice other than to die, according to Amy Hasbrouck, Director of Toujours Vivant-Not Dead Yet.

“Medical Aid in Dying will divert resources from services necessary for people’s lives, toward the bureaucracy needed to manage a euthanasia program,” said Hasbrouck. “If the national assembly were to remove the sections allowing euthanasia from the bill, these resources could be directed toward the urgent need, palliative care to all Québecers.”

Toujours Vivant-Not Dead Yet is a project of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities to unify, inform and give voice to the disability opposition to assisted suicide, euthanasia and similar discriminatory ending-of-life practices. The CCD is an intervener in the *Carter* case which is currently before the supreme court of Canada.

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