



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**ALERT! DID YOU KNOW THAT:**

**ANY PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO ENABLE YOUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA IS AT GRAVE RISK.**

**STATE RIGHTS TO PASS SUCH LEGISLATION ARE IN DANGER OF BEING VIOLATED.**

Senator Chris Ellison has proposed new legislation - the "Crimes Legislation Amendment (Telecommunications Offences and Other Measures Bill (2004)". This legislation, ***which is to be proceeded with as a matter of urgency***, would make it a criminal offence to use a carriage service such as an internet connection or a phone line to provide information and counselling on suicide.

***Competent adults have a right to end their own lives.*** It is most important that those who see this as a possibility should have access to advice to ensure that they do not act irrationally or by inappropriate means.

SAVES is a highly respected law reform society firmly committed to achieving legislation that allows a willing doctor to accede to the informed and persistent request of a hopelessly ill patient for help to die, subject to safeguards including parliamentary supervision. SAVES is one of 37 members of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies, and we engage in ongoing dialogue with church, medical, education and legal bodies. ***Our aims are supported by 79% of South Australians.***

Under the proposed legislation, our work could be falsely interpreted as intending to promote suicide. ***We do not advocate suicide or self-deliverance.*** Nevertheless the proposed amendments could be used to inhibit or put an end to our legitimate activities.

**URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.**

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