

# South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society Inc.

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To all members of the South Australian parliament

Dear Member,

A majority of Christians and many prominent theologians find no inconsistency between their faith and their support of choice for voluntary euthanasia.

As SAVES' pamphlet *Christian Support for Voluntary Euthanasia* (enclosed) states, it is not remarkable that there is a very high level of Christian support; what is remarkable is a common view that this is *not* the case. Morgan Polls consistently reveal overwhelming support from people of all major denominations and I have enclosed results from the latest poll in 2002 for your interest.

The internationally known senior bishop of the Episcopalian Church in the USA, and Eighth Bishop of Newark (retired), John Shelby Spong, is one eminent theologian who has been very active in the voluntary euthanasia movement. He argues:

- *I am a Christian whose faith has led him to champion the legal, moral, and ethical right that I believe every individual should be given - to die with dignity and to have the freedom to choose when and how that dignified death might be accomplished.*
- *I believe that if and when a person arrives at that point in human existence when death becomes a kinder alternative then the basic human right to choose how and when to die should be guaranteed by law and respected by our communities of faith. I think this choice should be legal. I will work, therefore, through the political processes to seek to create a world where advance directives are obeyed. I will work through the ecclesiastical processes of my church and all the forces of organised religion to change consciousness, to embrace new realities...*

Both majority Christian support for voluntary euthanasia legislation and rational consideration of societal good definitively argue the need for law reform. I urge you to support the *Dignity in Dying Bil2002*, either by endorsing it, or by suggesting appropriate amendments to further strengthen it.

Yours sincerely,

**Frances Coombe**  
**President**

