

*2010-04-21 – Comment – Dying with Dignity*

*Dying with Dignity – Bill C-384*

I support the right of any human to choose to die with dignity. I also want our society to do what it can to ensure that those who choose life are also permitted to live out their lives with dignity. I recognize that there are some real concerns about parameters and the potential for abuse where the person's wishes cannot necessarily be ascertained. I also feel strongly that any kind of assisted suicide or euthanasia must not be regarded as any kind of replacement for the treatment and care, including palliative care, needed for those who choose life. Stephen Fletcher, Conservative MP for Charleswood - St. James – Assiniboia wrote an excellent op ed in the National Post: *"Make life the first choice, but not the only choice"*, which can be found at <http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fullcomment/archive/tags/Steven+Fletcher/default.aspx>

Steven is a quadriplegic from a car accident with a moose when he was in his early 20s. He has an excellent perspective on this issue and abstained from the vote. I encourage everyone to read it.

I supported the Bill at this stage, primarily to encourage that it go to Committee where these issues can be addressed. I hoped that doing so would at least force Canadians to engage in discussion and debate of a serious issue. Unfortunately, the Bill did not pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.