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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**Disability Rights Community Demands Feds Kill Proposed Amendments to
to Medical Assistance in Dying (C-7) Bill**

WINNIPEG, February 24, 2021 -- People First of Canada is urging members and concerned Canadians from coast to coast to immediately contact their Members of Parliament to demand that proposed changes to Bill C-7, Canada's medical assistance in dying legislation, be killed immediately.

People First has added its name to an [open letter](#) from the disability rights community asking Members of Parliament to stop and think about the deadly consequences of a discriminatory bill that devalues the lives of people with disabilities.

"We spend our lives fighting to be heard and included as equal members of society. In its current form, this bill makes it easier than ever to cancel us out. Together we will fight to the end to kill the bill. It's not too late," said Kory Earle, President of People First of Canada.

The open letter explains the issue with the recent amendments:

"Bill C-7 sets apart people with disabilities and disabling conditions as the only Canadians to be offered assistance in dying when they are not actually nearing death. This core feature of the Bill is not widely understood, even among Canadian parliamentarians, with the result that many may find themselves supporting a Bill without grappling with its implications. As it stands, Bill C-7 is dangerous and discriminatory."

People First strongly believes that disability should not be a criteria to give a person access to medical assistance in dying.

People First of Canada Executive Director Shelley Fletcher says the unintended consequences of this bill could be deadly to Canadians with disabilities and an attack on their human right to self determination.

“We can’t let this happen. Please act now. Send an email, make a phone call, tag your MP in a social media post. Let’s fight this,” Fletcher said.

People First of Canada joins the disability community and concerned citizens online on Facebook and Twitter, using #killthebill to bring greater awareness to the issue. The debate continues this week in the House of Commons.

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About People First of Canada

People First of Canada is the national voice for people who have been labeled with an intellectual disability. We are about rights – human rights, citizenship rights, accommodation rights, and language rights. We believe in the right to freedom, choice, and equality for all.

We see ourselves as self-advocates and full citizens of our country – living equally in the community. We see ourselves as people first, and as people who have taken back control of our lives from families, policy makers and professionals such as support workers, doctors, social workers, and others, who, for far too long, made decisions for us.