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PRESS RELEASE

STIRLING CALLS FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EUTHANASIA

Territory Labor's Nhulunbuy MLA Syd Stirling today called for Marshall Perron's Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill to be referred to a Parliamentary Committee.

"I am concerned by early signs that the seriousness of the step we take with this legislation is being lost in the hype as to whether the bill will succeed," Mr Stirling said

"A Parliamentary Committee has the advantage of taking the heat and emotion out of the debate and would be able to deliver a comprehensive report to Parliament from which informed debate could flow.

"I am concerned that at the moment there seems to be a headlong rush to support the Bill with no certainty that the deeper issues, hidden risks and the enormity of the issue has been fully and properly considered.

"A Parliamentary Committee would allow the community to present views for and against the bill. At the moment there is a danger that the community feels left out of the decision making process.

"I want to ensure that as many people as possible have the chance to put their point of view on the subject of voluntary euthanasia.

"Marshall Perron thought that the introduction of poker machines into clubs and pubs was important enough to be referred to a Parliamentary Committee -- why not the matter of voluntary euthanasia?"

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