

SUPREME COURT RULING ON PVS PATIENTS

As the campaign director of THE DISTANT VOICES and someone who was 'locked in' for 5 months this ruling touches me and alarms me a great deal.

I was able to understand everything that was going on around me, the thought that medics and my family might be discussing my 'best interests' with no way of responding leaves me aghast. What I knew for sure is that I wanted to live no matter what. This has been the finding of the most recent research allowing people to communicate with those who exist in this different world, the surprising and life affirming fact that these people, like me, wanted to live.

To talk of 'best interest' and the usual 'quality of life' stuff is to put into the hands of those a power of which none of us is worthy; certainly not most doctors who see me as a disabled person representing not a life, but a failure of medicine. I'm reminded of a Mr Rudd, declared by his doctor after a quick scan of his eyes, to be in PVS. Had not a more caring medical soul appeared, who asked more questions, to which he blinked, he would not have been returned to his family, albeit like me, quite seriously disabled. So here's to him and I, and all those other 'distant voices,' I hope with all my heart they can manage a blink or reach out to someone who cares to give them a life not a death sentence.

THE DISTANT VOICES