

Item of business :

End of Life Choice Bill

Submission name :

Mrs Helen Caldwell

Comments

I **do not** support the End of Life Choice Bill. To me, this is a deeply troubling Bill. As human beings we are here to love, support and help people who are struggling with their life circumstances. We should not be just providing them with a quick, easy fix to end their life! Life is a precious, precious gift. How do we know that someone who says they want to end their life really does, and not that they feel compelled to make that choice for the sake of other people?

Doctors already have a stressful job. This could add enormously to their stress. What a terrible situation to be put in - being asked to give lethal drugs to a person - possible young -to kill them. The person may have been told they have a terminal illness but that diagnosis may turn out to be wrong! How many times has this situation happened in the past? What a burden for a doctor to have to carry - knowing that they informed someone they had a terminal illness and as a result they chose to end their life when perhaps the illness may not have been terminal after all. This could affect the way doctors daignose patients, their realtionship with the patient and the patient's family.

Deliberatley killing someone is not healthcare! If that person feels the future is bleak it is the responsibility of all of us to do everything we can to provide help and hope. There are many other ways of helping a person to manage their difficult circumstances and alleviate their fear. As long as there is life, there is hope.

Recommendations

I recommend that the Committee rejects this Bill.