

I totally oppose the bill to End of Life Choice Bill in any way, shape or form. This bill gives the right to assist suicide and to perform euthanasia.

I support turning off life support, but not killing someone by the administration of lethal drugs. This Bill is not about requesting no resuscitation, but about ending a person's life with lethal drugs.

To physically intervene and aid a person to die is more than stopping life support it is actually to commit murder.

Absolutely no one should be put in the position where they could murder someone or be party to agreement of this including family members, professional people, or the person to be killed themselves. It is not ethical for health professionals to be involved in intentionally causing the deaths of their patients. For doctors to deliberately end the lives of their patients is a contradiction and an affront to their professional ethics. There is no such thing as a right to ask another person to kill you. If such a bill gets passed we all will bear some responsibility and even the tax money we pay will go to funding the drugs etc to kill people.

At the moment it is proposed that it is for those with a life expectancy of less than a year. How is this expectancy to be determined? What contingency will they put in for 14 months? Because quite rightly we can not be the judge as to what time frame may or may not be 'correct'. Because ultimately no time frame of life expectancy is correct when you are looking at murder. In fact, under this proposed Bill, a person does not even have to be dying to qualify for assisted suicide.

Those countries that have supported euthanasia have even found that there are cases of elderly people opting for this so as not to be a financial burden on their children. Feeling they are too dependent is a common concern for many elderly New Zealanders. People could feel pressure to request an early death because it is the financially better and cheaper option.

There is already elderly abuse when instead we should be looking after our people! Are we now going to add elderly killing? There is no way of ensuring that a person's choice is truly voluntary.

Suicide rates in New Zealand are appallingly high and under this bill are we now going to say that it is all right to commit suicide so long as you have someone to help you do it? What further impact would this bill have on our suicide rates? We should be focusing on how to prevent suicides not make it easier for depressed and mentally ill people to end their lives.

This Bill would not protect disabled people from the suggestion that they are better off dead.

Let us call euthanasia and 'assisted' suicide by what it is – killing, murder.

Palliative care already helps people die comfortably and with dignity. It is not necessary to change the law.