

I am concerned about the End of Life Choice Bill. I write this submission to oppose this.

I do not want to live in a culture that does not allow people to live to the end of their life naturally.

It is right that suicide is regarded as wrong and a sad waste of a life and yet this Bill is

about making it legal to arrange the taking of a life, euthanasia or in effect assisted suicide.

The care of our weakest members is often a measure of the greatness of a society and I do not think

this is a good way of caring for “weaker” people in our community. The sick, the dying, the

chronically ill, those with mental health conditions and those unable to face what life offers them

are to be allowed support to take their life instead of being assisted to live to the end with dignity.

This Bill is not based on community values.

I disagree with the government passing a law that involves intentionally ending the lives of some its citizens.

The factual reasons against this Bill are well documented and are so valid and well written and well publicized in many Forums. I will not restate them here.

I do not think the reasons to promote this Bill have validity now and I think in future it will be even less valid as the taking of life would be so open to further exploitation.

My reading of data from Holland and Canada indicate the ever increasing numbers of assisted deaths after their legislation allowing termination of life.

I have experienced the aging and illness and death of both my mother and father and was pleased it was natural to care for them until their breathing stopped naturally.

I also cared for my husband who at relatively young age, 53, was given a diagnosis of return of a previous cancer operated on some years prior. This time it was an incurable and inoperable cancer. I was grateful for the support provided in NZ to give him medical attention and palliative care. Palliative care is important and vital in our community. Dying is a natural process and I want to maintain this way of living until death without any suggestion that it is better to terminate life at a point when it is determined to be difficult. My husband was paralysed for the last months of his life and after several weeks in hospice, with excellent care and time to adjust and for me to arrange physical alterations in our house he was able to come home for the months till he died. It was not always easy but it was achievable with

the appropriate support and a worthwhile time of his life and for our family and community.

Will the NZ health system continue to find and fund ways to care for people in this situation if others are proposing support to end life if it is a burden?

This is a character building time for our nation. I hope we are not going to go the way of treating people as a disposable commodity.

What is our greatest resource? People, people, people!

Let us have laws that truly value people.

I say NO to any legislation that allows assisted dying.

*Karen Moynagh*