

Item of business :

# End of Life Choice Bill

Submission name :

## Miss Christina Fox

To the Justice Committee,

I am writing to say that, as a citizen of New Zealand, I do not think the End of Life Choice Bill is a good thing for our country. As a registered nurse who has cared for many dying people and has seen first-hand the wonderful care under hospice my mother received, I believe this Bill would be a step backwards. It would drive a wedge of mistrust between the people and the healthcare system and would become the 'elephant in the room' between a patient and their doctor. There are many examples of the downfalls of allowing euthanasia/assisted suicide from other countries who have already adopted this policy and the trends seen in those countries are downright alarming (child/infant, elderly, mentally ill euthanasia).

Where I work, I have seen people who are suffering and cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel, and who have told me they wish they could die, however I have also seen these same people recover and gain a new lease of life. These are people who would be so vulnerable to this Bill or its future inevitable expansions. I have also seen people who are requiring full-time, hospital level care, who've told me they're concerned that they're a burden on society and family (not that they wish to die but that they're a burden). These are also very vulnerable people and the Bill cannot protect them from coercion/pressure from uncaring family; elder abuse being very prevalent in New Zealand.

There are many comments I could make about this bill but I know there are people out there who can say it in a better way than I can. I would just like to say that while it may be seen to help a very few people it will do far more harm than it could ever do good. I ask you to please not open this 'can of worms' and focus instead on reinforcing good hospice/medical care and on building up New Zealand citizens and families in a positive, life-promoting environment.

Kind regards,

Christina Fox