

Item of business :

# End of Life Choice Bill

Submission name :

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## Comments

I believe assisted suicide is wrong.

The crux of the argument to me relates to refuting that people who want to die by this method say that it is their choice and their choice alone.

If it is their choice alone then they should not involve other people in the act of taking their life, i.e. they should not involve a doctor or any relative/friend.

As a doctor my first and foremost rule is do no harm. Killing is harm. Assisted suicide is completely different to those who are actively dying and keeping them comfortable as oppose to trying to intervene.

I believe it would be disastrous to allow assisted suicide, we know from the Netherlands and other countries that allowed it under strict guidance initially that the 'slippery slope' argument has now come to fruition, children are dying under the guise of assisted suicide, otherwise healthy paraplegics are, mentally unstable and elderly dementia patients with no say of their own are being killed.

In addition I strongly believe that if the public were educated about actual real palliative care and experience it to the highest standard then they will change their minds about wanting assisted suicide to occur. The public have unfortunately a very wrong and skewed view of palliation. This country needs to place more funding and training into palliation for ALL conditions where the patient has a life limiting disease, not just cancer.

## Recommendations

I recommend that the assisted suicide bill should NOT pass.

I recommend that money and training instead be funneled into providing excellent palliative care centres, nursing staff and doctors.

I recommend that IF the law passes that doctors should be under NO obligation to provide their patient with means of killing themselves, this proviso includes NOT being lawfully required to refer them to someone who will.