

**Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021**

**Submission No.:** 21  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Position:** I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill  
**Comments in relation to:** Other  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

Last year with the passing of my husband after an 11 year battle with prostate cancer, I found even though he and I felt we had done all we could to ensure that in the final stages of his disease we had taken all the measures we could to make his passing as gentle as a process as it could be, such was not the case. Michael had made a conscious choice to stop all treatment and had mentally prepared himself for what this meant. I was Michael's sole carer and had him at home until the last 6 days of his life where it became obvious that he required much more intensive care. However on his final admission to hospital even though his Palliative Care Specialist assured both him and I this was the best place for Michael to be to control his pain and keep him comfortable such was not our experience. To the extent that I was at the point of invoking "Ryan's Rule after spending many hours hearing my husband screaming in pain, demanding to see a doctor to try and obtain adequate pain relief.

My husband was finally moved to a Palliative Care Ward hours before he passed. He and I expected that this should have happened days prior. Michael showed great strength in making the decision he did to stop treatment and I know he was alert and astute enough that if the choice had of been his to make he would had chosen a much more dignified and peaceful end for himself and those he loved. This choice was not available, so he suffered unnecessarily as I still do left with the memories of what he went through and there was absolutely nothing I could do to help him The end result is Michael suffered and I am left with feelings of guilt and failure because I still feel there should have been something I could have done to make it easier.