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**From:** Theo Shemansky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 6 June 2021 8:30 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Re: VAD Bill

My name is Dr Theo Shemansky.

I am a GP [REDACTED]

I want to tell you that it is the sincere wish of myself, my wife and my three children that the proposed Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill in Queensland Parliament be voted down.

I say this as a member of the community, a father, a doctor, and as a Christian.

I find it deeply concerning that on the one hand we deplore suicide, and understand that in order to commit suicide someone has become deeply mentally unwell, and that we also abhor murder, when someone intentionally takes the life of another. Yet suddenly when we combine these two acts in the form of Euthanasia some parts of society are willing to consider them.

This should deeply disturb us all.

From a medical perspective the primary concern of a doctor is to "Do No Harm".

How can doctors then balance that core ethical principal with that of intentionally taking another person's life? It flies in the face of everything that a doctor strives to do for their patient.

This VAD is also deeply concerning as it seeks to remove and prevent an institution's ability to object to Euthanasia. This is a gross over-reach by Government and completely disregards the principle of separation between Church and State. It seeks to infringe upon a person's individual religious freedom as well as upon the collective religious freedom of an institution. This simply cannot be allowed to happen.

For me it also raises concerns, that if this law were to be passed and these practices were to become "accepted" within parts of society it is then likely to have a flow on effect to who is allowed to study medicine, as those that have an opposition to Euthanasia, will be prevented from studying and working in medicine as their beliefs will be in conflict with the laws associated with this bill.

It is therefore my sincere wish that the VAD be removed.

Kind Regards,  
Dr Theo Shemansky.