

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

**Submission No.:** 61  
**Submitted by:** Ian Hamilton  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Position:** I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill but recommend some changes to it.  
**Comments in relation to:** Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities, Other  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

I am not totally opposed to the concept of voluntary euthanasia, however I have serious misgivings concerning certain aspects of the proposed bill. The specific items are listed below.

1. I understand that there would be no opportunity for conscientious objection by health practitioners.  
This is fundamentally wrong. Every person must be given the right to abstain from actions that they consider to be (a) morally wrong, (b) harmful to another, or (c) harmful to themselves.
2. I understand that faith-based hospitals and nursing homes would not be able to refuse to have their patients euthanized.  
If future patients sign a declaration before acceptance, that they understand that the faith-based hospital or nursing home does not allow or perform euthanasia, and that they agree to such condition, then the faith-based hospital or nursing home should not be forced to comply with a legal provision that contradicts their beliefs and ethos, in relation to such future patients.
3. Finally, I also understand that anyone who talks someone out of assisted suicide could face up to 7 years in jail.  
This clearly violates the principal of freedom of speech. This would be a blatant and very serious infringement of human rights, if imposed.

Ian Hamilton