
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 June 2021 7:24 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Voluntary assisted dying bill

Re: Voluntary assisted dying bill

Dear Health and Environment Committee,

We have reviewed the Bill and have a number of concerns about it:

Whilst it states that a Health Care Worker can't initiate a discussion about voluntary assisted dying, it also says that a Medical Practitioner or Nurse Practitioner can initiate it, if they also provide other information to the person regarding treatment options etc. I strongly object to it as it might be seen by the patient as a recommendation, and even been taken as an expected outcome. Often people who are suffering from significant health issues feel like a burden to their families and friends, their support systems and even the health system, and a representative of the "health system" to present this as an option will inevitably sway people towards it, and at the least will make people feel guilty if they don't make this choice.

This leads on to the issue of coercion. People who are classed as "eligible for voluntary assisted dying" are in a very vulnerable position. They can easily be coerced into making decision that meet other people's expectations and which are not a reflection of their true choices, and it would be very difficult to detect this.

The last objection we want to raise is the fact that the Cause of death certificate will not reflect the true cause of death. In our eyes this is a clear falsification of records as the cause of death wasn't the disease, illness or medical condition, but in fact assisted suicide chosen due the person suffering from those health conditions, and therefore should be recorded as such.

In addition to that it seems somewhat a contradiction that the bill on one hand so desperately tries to ensure that it is the person's own choice to end their life due to the underlying health issues, but on the other hand they will then be denied the "right" to have this choice recorded as the cause of death.

We strongly oppose the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill and are asking you to reject it.

Sincerely,
Michael & Resi Fuessel

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