

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 June 2021 1:59 PM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 - How can this be allowed?

Re: Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 - How can this be allowed?

Dear Health and Environment Committee,

Thankyou for all the work you do on behalf of the public especially during these more difficult times of Covid. I'm writing to voice concerns about the Voluntary Assisted Dying 2021 Bill.

I would like to highlight three very specific flaws with respect to the practice of VAD:

Firstly, the human dignity of every person is undermined. Our society has benefited for a long time from the Christian worldview which says that every person has dignity. In other words people have dignity by virtue of being people! VAD advocates wrongly say that unless people have a choice they can not die with dignity. However, by saying that they undermine the fact that everyone has dignity already! And they reduce dignity to one's ability or capacity to do this or that. Surely every senior has dignity regardless of what they can or cannot do!

Secondly, the wider impact on society is devastating. This is not simply a matter of personal choice. Our choices affect others. In this case, every elderly person will then be forced to ask if they should die too! And whether they are a burden! These are questions that no one should have to wrestle with. Our choices also affect the doctors who must sign off and carry this on their conscience. Our choices also affect family whose loved ones are taken prematurely. It's not simply a matter of personal choice.

Thirdly, doctors and family can become compromised. In worst case scenarios, doctors move from being a friend of life (which is the Hippocratic oath they take), who ask questions about relieving pain and suffering, to being an advocate of death. In some countries, there have even been reports of seniors becoming afraid of visiting the hospital! Not only that, sadly in some cases families have even become the grim reapers (see a Dutch case where the family held the person down at the doctor's request). It doesn't take long for a 'right to die' to morph into a 'duty to die.'

So, how can we best show compassion for the suffering and dying? As a Christian I share a concern for compassion for those who suffer. And, I desire to honour our seniors. How can I do that? By showing compassion to ALL our seniors by affirming their dignity, right to live, and value to us, rather than undermining it. We can also invest heavily in their care, including palliative care, because in this day and age we have the ability to provide high quality pain management and care. And, hence I would like to fight this push for VAD on our senior's behalf!

These issues alone demonstrate that the Bill is unacceptable. I urge you to reject the Voluntary Assisted Dying 2021 Bill.

Sincerely,  
Craig van Echten

[REDACTED]

Prepared by OneClickPolitics (tm) at [www.oneclickpolitics.com](http://www.oneclickpolitics.com). OneClickPolitics provides online communications tools for supporters of a cause, issue, organization or association to contact their elected officials. For more information regarding our policies and services, please contact [info@oneclickpolitics.com](mailto:info@oneclickpolitics.com)