

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 658
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Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

The choice of voluntary assisted dying is a question that can only be answered by an individual who has to face the reality that they will die from something out of their hands. Simply having the choice when one's life ends gives the terminal person a sense of control, whether they choose to or not.

While my brothers and I cared for my mother at her home (as she didn't want to die in a hospital) her health declined rapidly over a 3 month period. Towards the end I remember her asking us how much longer it would be until the end. For this we had no answer, only pain medications.

The day after her 56th birthday she slipped into an unconscious state and without any food or water going in, over the next 14 long days we watched our mother deteriorate beyond a point we thought possible as her body literally broke itself down and ate itself to keep going. 2 of the longest most unsettling and heart breaking weeks of our lives, mum finally found peace while we held her hands as she took her last breath.

[REDACTED] I find it hard to celebrate and think of the good times, because all I can ever seem to think about is the devastating way mum passed.

My mother knew when she had had enough and I know she would have had comfort in knowing she had a choice to end her life.

We could never understand what someone terminal is going through and this is what it comes down to, it's giving comfort to someone who is nearly impossible to comfort. It's the most humane thing we can give another human, it's choice.