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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 June 2021 11:09 AM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Re: I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Dear Health Committee Members,

How do the majority of people die?

A large proportion is still sudden deaths. People with slower dying processes are not suffering universally badly as the media&Hollywood would like to portray as there is pain controlling medications available, a lot more than years ago. If elderly are in pain their palliative care isn't being maintained to the level that is needed&this is exactly why we need more financial support in palliative care. It's a sham what finances are being made available now from the government, \$171 million for 6yrs while \$275million is needed annually, what a joke..(28.5million per yr)Is this what is wanted? to get RID of the problems of the aging& those with disabilities in the population? as they so-called-drain the economy, it sure appears so.... we're in covid locking them down appearing to protect but passing a bill to kill???where's the real protection of our elderly?We need more done in this area- better trained management of homes, supervisors, more available medications, more employed to give individual care: more palliative care doctor(it takes them an extra 4yrs to become one so why not allow more?) nurses, assistants and more finances to be able to give help for greater help in palliative healthcare for the aged, those with disabilities&the terminally ill, not less, as this will definitely lead to increased euthanasia.

I have had the privilege of experiencing my 96 year old mother having good palliative care but have we had to keep an eye on her. Over her time in a home, it is now going onto 6 years, she has had many times she could have passed but she is still with us because of the palliative care she is receiving. You tell me how does one know exactly that they'll pass in 12months time?she had quite a server stroke 6 years ago with no place to go but here she still is with us. The elderly know the waiting list for palliative care packages is longer than 12months, guess people will choose the vad instead of waiting, they will think it isn't coming. As the government already is doing such a great job at supporting the elderly with care, those elderly that worked very hard for this country to be what it had become, we are treating them like this?with dignity&respect?provide all out opportunities to kill them but no choice as money isn't suppose to be there&a package takes forever.Obviously no palliative care for them or us in the future, this is totally disgusting treatment of our elderly. Don't those in government realise that they'll growing old too?do they think such passing of laws won't affect them when older in the future?what is it?also if one is trying to stop someone from killing themselves, one can be placed in jail for 7years, what??? The government exactly does want the elderly to kill themselves. This is total madness.

I just faced time my mum yesterday&seeing her is very precious indeed. We as a family have had to show the staff what level of support&caring as a family we have expected from the home she is in&still now at times she isn't receiving that level of healthcare she ought to be receiving. They have given continual health care eg general practitioners when needed& listen to us&her, she doesn't want to be admitted to any hospitals as hospital staff do not ring the home to find out information about her medical history but have made on the spot decisions which haven't been the correct decisions with her medications in the past, she has found hospitals extremely noisy, busy&they have placed her in terrible stress.

Yes she has faith in God&believes death is what happens without people's interference. I have&am experiencing death&dying with dignity without the situation of having to plan her death with some deliberate injection or poisonous drink. HOW TERRIBLE this is, to know that people want to face deliberate planned killing as well as the parent in the process of dying, to be involved in the planning of giving a lethal dose to end life. To me this is an UTTER HORRIFIC SITUATION as well as facing the death of a loved one. It is unthinkable, adding guilt&the knowledge of knowing the cause of death was because 'I killed my mum with poison' not a natural death because of old age. Do you want this on your

conscience? those passing these laws&on our children's conscience? I do not want my children to have this upon them in years to come or have access to be involved in planning mine or their own deaths. I know I can arrange it in my health directive but why? do I want my family to know 'I killed myself 'sucide? What an example for their own future death. There are plenty of family members&doctors who would rather be caring for their patient/family member than killing them.

I could not trust the doctors if this law was in the background. There are many doctors who have spoken to the way "usual care" can be extended to meet the needs of patients at the end of their lives, employing the strengths of the doctor patient relationship to turn to more palliative methods while adjusting the "usual care" one is offered up to that point, accordingly. This has been illustrated to me&my family now in how death is to be faced&it is with GREAT dignity&respect towards my mum NOW because it is WITHOUT the possibility of deliberate planning to kill as there is NO law existing now. The only law that needs to be made is to make sure deliberate killing without consent ISN'T POSSIBLE! ever, now or in the future. A large charge or jailing of those who euthanize&plant the idea into the patient's mind making sure they feel they're obliged to kill themselves, pushing them(especially against their consent) needs to be in place so trustworthy patient doctor relations can continue. This slippery slope of who says dies without consent is already happening in European countries as relatives want their inheritance early.

We all face our own vulnerabilities of future death with the possibility if this law passes, of placing our trust in being cared for(whatever that will look like) by these doctors&nurses who see a lethal injection or a drink of poison liquid as the only way to die... what a joke!! Trust in them???OH GOD FORBID!!!!

More finances are URGENTLY NEEDED for Qlder's palliative care with the ability to deliver good pain management, safer facilities for the vulnerable with fantastic caring people giving excellent world class palliative care at the end of life experience. Or is there going to be a normal procedure once a person is judged as contributing nothing to this society, (whoever decides this??) a process which we will kill the elderly just like that?

Sincerely,  
Sue Innes