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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 26 June 2021 9:45 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,

I am opposed to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill, as a registered nurse of 50 years, having worked in many areas of health including Aged Care and currently mental health.

In my experience people never want to die if there is any hope or if they are offered adequate pain relief and assistance and support to manage what they are facing and to navigate what is available to support them to live with dignity.

Almost ever person I have cared for after a suicide attempt are grateful they have survived and are looking for support and understanding to help them through. Health care workers with a conscientious objection should not be forced to refer to someone with will kill them or assist them to kill themselves.

As a mental health nurse it is my job to try to talk someone out if trying to kill themselves and to keep them safe, this bill proposes I could be jailed for 7 years for doing my job. I would never allow someone to take their life if I can prevent them from doing so.

Doctors and nurses provide the care, treatment and support to live not to kill people. To kill or assist a person to suicide goes against everything in us. While we hate to see suffering we know that good and well funded palliative care is the best option to allow people to die with dignity.

Doctors and nurses and ot

Every person needs to have available good counselling and spiritual support at the end of life and to be allowed to die at their God appointed time.

12month prognosis is a long time and much intervention is available to make a huge impact or new treatment may become available.

I believe an appropriate specialist must be involved to give adequate information and options including a psychiatrist for a mental health assessment and oncologist or other specialist in the area pertaining to the prognosis.

A palliative care specialist would also be a must.

How could a tele-health consultation be considered an adequate assessment of someone seeking to kill themselves as I know many people who had even the simplest medical conditions not picked up and treated under these circumstances yet a life threatening condition would be considered to be appropriately assessed by this form of communication.

The falsifying of death certificates to state the cause of the underlying illness as the cause of death would be nothing but a lie. How can we be expected to trust our government!

Adequate funding needs to be provided urgently in all areas of Queensland including regional and rural and regional areas prior to this bill being considered.

In ever other country and even in this nation we have seen an increase above the expected uptake and a very quick increase in the scope of those being included in those elegable to access these service's to legally kill themselves.

It also opens the door to coercion by family and medical professionals and others to eliminate those with disability or poor health because of cost of care, inconvenience those wanting to access money from them etc.

Please inform yourself of all the information to fully educate your self before voting on this bill. Don't be deceived by the wording as it is killing people or assisting a person to kill themselves.

Sincerely,  
Susan Gai Lavender

