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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 June 2021 9:24 AM  
**To:** Health and Environment Committee  
**Subject:** Submission on Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill

Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill

I support the Bill on the basis of compassion for the individual involved, and respect for the right of the individual to make end of life decisions about their own life. I reject the empowerment of people, the conscientious objectors, who wish to impose their beliefs on individuals who have a different belief on end of life choices. People who seek VAD do not wish to impose their will on other people, unlike the conscientious objectors.

Religious reasons are often cited as the reason for objecting to VAD. As someone who has studied Christian Theology at Master's level, and taught senior students about religion and ethics for 20 years, I claim some expertise in this area. The core teaching of Christianity is "Love your neighbour", and in this instance, that means compassion and respect for the individual involved. Jesus demonstrated in the parable of "The woman caught in adultery" (John 8:1-11) that compassion is more important than the letter of the law, and he acted to save the woman from the mob. When Jesus spoke to the mob, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone", he recognised that the stone-bearing mob had no sense of compassion, so he appealed to their sense of justice. The authentic Christian approach to VAD would be to demonstrate love and compassion to the individual, and respect their wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Sullivan

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