

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 908
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Position: I/We do not support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Eligibility criteria* ,The request and assessment process,Safeguards,Conscientious objection by either individuals or entities
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

I speak with the experience of having been closely involved in the care of my elderly parents, sister in law and my father-in-law until their final breath.

The medical care they received was adequate and appropriate for their circumstances.

In the case of my mother who had experienced long standing illness it was my decision (on behalf of my family) to withdraw life support.

Her death occurred naturally without any medical intervention.

My sister in law passed peacefully in palliative care after losing a battle to pancreatic cancer.

Sadly not all elderly people experience the love and care of a supportive family.

Some are very vulnerable and subject to abuse.

I contend that the proposed bill does not include enough safeguards to protect the vulnerable.

My understanding of the Hippocratic Oath is "first do no harm".

Making a conscious decision to end human life (while in keeping with the current governments policy of killing innocent unborn children) is contrary to the current government action to supposedly preserve human life by imposing draconian measures to guard against the transmission of COVID virus. Many medical staff have high moral standards and would object to being part of or recommending the termination of life. I note that this bill does not provide for conscientious objection.

I take note the not all doctors support this bill. I am aware that Dr. Perry (President of the AMA) is opposed to this bill.

All human life is precious. We are conceived in the image of God and hold that status until our final breath. All care and support must be given to support life at every stage. The provision of palliative care should be expanded so that all of our terminally ill brothers and sisters may die naturally and pain free.

Thank you