

Health and Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 June 2021 10:07 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Categories: Submission

Re: I oppose the "Voluntary Assisted Dying" Bill

Dear Health Committee Members,

Dear Members of the Health Committee,

I urge you not to support the euthanasia bill which will help kill people or assist them to suicide because in plain talk that's exactly what it is.

I speak as a former nurse who did all I could to save lives.

No doctor or health professional wants to be out into a position of killing their patient. We are here to heal and care and protect, and it is grossly unfair to put that sort of pressure on the medical profession because they will feel it.

With our excellent palliative care/pain management specialists today no-one need die in agony,

The solution is to greatly increase our palliative care facilities and services to improve the quality of life and help extend the lives of those with terminal illnesses to allow them to find peace and give them time to die with dignity surrounded by their loved ones, not to direct funding away to "solve" the problem with assisted suicide.

No matter what rules you put in place, legalising euthanasia will lead to abuses in the system. You have only to look at what has happened in countries like Holland over the years since euthanasia was allowed. Once we lose our respect for human life to the extent that older people feel they are a burden on society we have lost our way as a civilised society.

It is a highly emotional debate, but using the very small percentage of cases with severe pain etc to justify assisted suicide is misleading. We may (reluctantly) shoot animals in severe pain or put them to sleep when we can't heal them but we are not dealing with animals here.

Let's not lose sight of our humanity. Please think of the consequences!

Thank you.

Cecilia Prest.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Prest
[REDACTED]