

Health and Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 1:20 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission on Draft Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 (up dated)
Categories: Submission

From **Ron Brennan**

To the parliament,

I am against euthanasia because of the low value it places on life.

I am convince for almost any reason some will seek death.

I have tried to take into consideration the draft bill this is my response to the bill so far.

In the Draft Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021 it seems to be assumed that a person can fully be informed,

about their options for end of life as such they can make a fully informed choice to die.

A person who is choosing to take their own life is vulnerable.

People who choose to die may well be unaware what they will face when they die.

They should have a councillor to talk through the issues what a person may face when they die.

I do not see euthanasia as good health care in my observation it is a way to cut costs in the medical system,

that is underfunded It is also a way to silence the call to better fund health care.

Soon we will go from palliative care to no care for more and more conditions we may even see it develop,

into a way for people to opt out of life for any reason.

It seems highly probable that people who think they have no reason to live any more may want to have euthanasia for non medical reasons.

These reasons may include Mental Health reasons. It seems strange to me to fund suicide prevention and fund euthanasia for the same reasons.

This is Inequitable access to euthanasia.

I live with a condition that often leads to deep depression in those dark times it would not be good to have the option of euthanasia.

In those dark times it would seem a relief to be able to take ones life into ones hands.

WE should fully fund palliative care for all health care at any age. Euthanasia is not good health care it should not be considered health care.

Say no to assisted suicide we will see reason after reason added to euthanasia if we go down this track.

I know that euthanasia looks kind in some peoples eyes yet it is not.

When we die we go to a place of waiting this is believed by many religions around the world so by logic is true.

The Christian faith teachers we go back to God and give an account for our lives.

Euthanasia puts us in charge of our time of death and so we send people to the judgment early.

**We may think we are ending suffering but we may be sending people to a place of suffering.
This is not a nice thought Christianity is not the only believe system to see a judgement after death.**

By logic judgement comes after life.

According to Christian teaching we will all give an a account for our lives.

The teaching of all religions includes an accountability for our lives yet Christianity is the only one with a saviour.

Jesus is the reason not to take ones life because He is the saviour.

Looking at the Draft bill I am not convinced that coercion exploitation can be stopped or prevented should a person be near to death and unable to show cognitive function.

It sounds good to have safe guards to prevent staff raising voluntary assisted dying

Yet no staff should be forced to talk about it either it is in religious terms not up for discussion that is life is a gift not to be taken away.

It is not good to have a false cause of death on death certificates.

It is not good for a doctor to have to give details of other medical practitioners who might provide assisted dying support.

The protection against coercion must be stronger

All effort should be made to see to it no one is forced to go against their conscience to provide euthanasia.

All effort should be taken to ensure euthanasia is really what the person wants with no pressure to say yes.

Voluntary assisted dying should only be raised by the client themselves.

Voluntary assisted dying should be the last option.

Health care workers should have strict rules governing the talk about voluntary assisted dying as it is suicide by a different name in the eyes of many.

Suicide by a different name is how many feel about voluntary assisted dying.

All efforts must be made to put meaning back into the life of the person seeking to access voluntary assisted dying it seems for many there is not much left to life. Currently a person must have a medical condition that is advanced just who is diagnosing the persons state who decides for non physical condition if it is likely to just continue to get worse like a mental health condition.

Mental health conditions and voluntary assisted dying many feel they would be better of dead, yet what is most needed is real friends.

What are we going to do with this problem?

Final Request seems to be very open ended. Doctors need to be able to say no and not have to refer people to other doctors.

The right not to be in any way involved in voluntary assisted dying must be protected in law.

Meaning not having to refer people to such services even if they ask.

It seems that end of life choices are very subjective to opinion of a doctor or doctors that may or may not involve the friends and or family of the person.

People in such a dark place will often keep their state a secret from the people normally near and dear to them.

By nature of the health either mental or physical or both a person may with these conditions may cut off contact to friends and family.

A person must be willing to have friends & or relatives present when discussing end of life choices.

There is no way that a person should be able to take their own life without some people they know knowing about it.

There is no way that taking ones own life should be excepted as normal.

There is no way that anyone should be allowed to take their own life without being told all the reasons not to take their own life.

When all is said and done it needs to be a informed choice knowing the prose and cons.

For example Not dying despite the treatment, being disabled by treatment more then before.

Not having control of the situation. Having a painful death.

The consequences for family and friends Loss of a friend or relative.

A person should have to prove they understand the consequences of their choice not only on their friends and family but also on the community as a whole. They should do whatever is in their ability to reduce the impact of their choice.

In places where policys have allowed voluntary assisted dying suicide has also gone up.

It seems that suicide is linked to voluntary assisted dying.

Should a person desire to die they may seek to die through the euthanasia means

and if that fails end up taking their own life this has already taken place in other places and is sure to continue to take place.

We should value life more, we should not make it easy to take ones own life.

We should work hard to make it possible to gain friends and strengthen ties with family.

We should do all in our ability to strengthen all friendships. We should look for ways to increase quality of all relationships.

Exemptions are very broad leading to the possibility of abuse.

There needs to be no doubt that a person is qualified to apply to make the choice.

There must be away to review the choice before it is completed.

Life must still be the desired outcome where it is possible all effort should be given to convince people to choose life.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Sincerely

Ron Brennan