

Submission into the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021

Submission No.: 1205
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Position: I/We support the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill
Comments in relation to: Other
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I watched my mother die, in agony, from liver cancer. No amount of drugs could dull her pain. I watched my niece die, in agony, from aggressive breast cancer. The drugs did not fully control her pain. Neither were allowed the power to stop their agony and both suffered dreadfully in their final days.

I am not afraid of dying but I am afraid of being in a hopeless situation making me powerless to control how and when I die. This bill is very important as a last resort should I find myself suffering as I saw members of my family suffer. I am in no hurry to go and would try every possible option before accessing a right to stop my suffering if it became unbearable. I do not believe in any gods or afterlife. I will just cease to exist and, most importantly, I will cease to suffer. Experienced and empathetic medical professionals would understand my wishes and show mercy by providing the necessary items for me to end my suffering. This mercy would satisfy the oath to do no harm.

Right now, there are people suffering while waiting for this bill to pass. Will there be a surge of assisted deaths if it passes? I doubt it. However, I suspect there will be a surge of relief knowing the option is available if the suffering becomes unbearable.

For those opposing this bill, I hope they never find themselves in a situation where they find themselves powerless to end the pain a tad earlier than their bodies will allow. I don't understand why they should oppose my right to make my own decisions about my life and death. I support the bill knowing it won't force them to use it thus leaving them with the power to make decisions about their lives and deaths.