

**Health and Environment Committee**

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**From:** Helen Dowling [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 July 2021 7:40 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,

I want to voice my opinion in relation to the soon to be debated assisted suicide and euthanasia Bill. I have personally experienced this twice, with my mother and my sister. My mother was diagnosed with lung cancer and then a brain tumour. The doctors treated her with chemotherapy, but before long it metastasized and she was diagnosed with a brain tumour. The doctors said go home and finalise your affairs as we can't see you lasting past 6 months. She returned home to Ireland and said goodbye to the family before returning to Australia. My mother did not give up but lived every day as it was her last, and she did that for 10 years, before eventually dying of a heart attack. My sister was also diagnosed with cancer, bone cancer, which also metastasized to lung cancer. Due to her condition doctors were unable to assist her and she was given the bad news of 7 months to live. She also had a very positive attitude and lived every day as it was a gift before the cancer affected her that she was confined to bed. Her doctor increased her medication until she needed to enter palliative care. She spent time in the [REDACTED] Hospital Palliative care unit before they moved her to [REDACTED] Hospital palliative care. We were able to spend time as a family celebrating Christmas in 2018 at [REDACTED] palliative care before she passed away on 29.12.2018, 7 years after she has diagnosed. Life is to cherish and not allow anyone to take it away. I'm very grateful that my mother and sister understood the importance of life and they have instilled this in me. Yes it very uncomfortably for me and for others to watch this happen, but a life is precious, and no ones to take. If palliative care is provided and funded properly then assisted suicide is not required. It may be less costly for people to take their own life but this is a slippery slope we are starting. First abortion, then assisted suicide, what next, removing those not functional in the community.

If you allow the passing of this Bill, you are saying that the individual is not worth while

Please do not vote for the bill

Write your email here.

Sincerely,  
Helen Dowling  
[REDACTED]