

Health and Environment Committee

From: Joe Bennett [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 9:02 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Voluntary Assisted Dying

Categories: details provided, Submission

I support the draft VAD bill. I have grave concerns that a small number of religious conservatives want to interfere with other people's right to choose for themselves. Nobody is insisting that anyone has to avail themselves of this right, so there is an imbalance between one group insisting that they have the right to choose for all of us, and others asking for the right to make their own mind up. This holds true for religious establishments that believe that an organisation should have rights that triumph over individual rights. Whilst I fully support the right of individuals to not assist in VAD, they shouldn't be able to prevent another from accessing those rights nor should any hospital, hospice, or other venue be able to prevent anyone from getting any legal procedure.

Finally, given the remoteness of some parts of this state, any and all methods of communication should be available for a patient to gain access to medical assistance for the purposes of VAD. We have already seen the impact of distance on the provision of abortion services to remote communities, with those not living in major cities having major hurdles to access legal medical services. This should not be the case for those who wish to avail themselves of VAD.

A lot of time, effort and thought has gone into the draft bill, and it should not be compromised at the last minute to placate a small but noisy minority who believe they know how the rest of us should end our days. Thankyou for your time,

Joe Bennett,
[REDACTED]