

Health and Environment Committee

From: Emma McKenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 10:11 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 am writing to express my concern regarding the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.

This Bill has so many dangerous ramifications on our state. It will be easily abused and put the most vulnerable of us at risk.

I find it terrifying that right now there seem to be no requirements for people considering ending their life to see a mental health professional.

The fact that a medical professional can be penalised for attempting to encourage a patient to explore other options, and have no right to religiously or conscientiously oppose such an act is scary to say the least.

Yet a doctor or nurse is allowed to suggest euthanasia or assisted suicide as a viable treatment option? To literally the most vulnerable, in pain and potentially confused and susceptible members of our society?

How does this not open the door to elder abuse? To manipulation? To emptying out hospital beds so as to not drain the system, to making palliative care patients feel like a burden?

This is dangerous and inhumane. Whilst my heart breaks for those in these situations, the danger of a law accommodating for just a few will put the many at risk. There are no provisions to protect doctors or patients. This is the opposite of medicine, the Hippocratic oath and the culture of mateship and bearing one another in our weakness.

Please reconsider your support for this Bill.

Sincerely,
Emma McKenzie

[REDACTED]