

Health and Environment Committee

From: Jodie Guerrero [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 July 2021 12:32 AM
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,

As a triple cancer & transplant survivor - I have almost met death in the face six times. I have fought for my life over & over - my life and life in general is more precious than diamonds and the finest gems in the world.

Why is preserving life so important? Well, preserving my life is important to me, because - even when I am ill (as I struggle with GVHD x 5 every day since transplant in 2014) - I am still able to make a sizeable difference to my community, just by speaking out (as I do right now).

Physically, even with taking 55 pills a day - and sometimes not feeling fantastic - a lot of people around me love me and greatly need me in their life.

Just because the body has problems - and I know about this, I have about 15 illnesses & disabilities - does not mean that the soul living in that body is completely broken and completely useless.

I have been assisted by palliative care whilst having a bone marrow transplant in 2014 @ the RBWH. Most patients and physicians are unaware that the people in palliative care have access to drugs that no other doctors can access. These drugs are so powerful that they masked my cancer pain from Myelodysplasia eating away @ my thighs and hips before my transplant.

This pain was extremely severe and even today - I have several types of annoying pain - but, when I work with my doctor, I can eliminate them, one by one.

So, life is precious and even today - although, I cannot work, I can volunteer my work as a 'Consumer Health Advocate'. I have written my full story and have an interested agent in NY. I am going on despite the need for some people to possibly take their lives with the same level of illness or pain.

I am walking proof that there is no need to give up on life. Our families and our communities value us way too much - making life matter is worth more than all the opals in an Australian sunset.

Please do not consider this bill - please reject it and read my website instead: www.jodiesjourney.com

Sincerely,
Jodie Guerrero