

Health and Environment Committee

From: William Church [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 July 2021 6:44 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,

The proposed Voluntary Assisted Suicide legislation is a poor substitution for adequately funded and resourced palliative care. The very notion of it conflicts with the Hippocratic Oath that medical professionals: "first do no harm."

Research from other jurisdictions which have instituted assisted dying laws do little to inspire confidence in its efficacy. In the Netherlands, crude suicide rates have increased despite assisted suicide legislation (Termination of Life on Request and Assisted Suicide (Review Procedures) Act). Moreover, extensive studies exploring the administration of assisted suicide in various jurisdictions reveal an unacceptable risk concerning diminished consent and capacity - even under the most stringent of legislative and medical guidelines and protocols (Pereira, J. "Legalizing euthanasia or assisted suicide: the illusion of safeguards and controls." Current oncology (Toronto, Ont.) vol. 18,2 (2011): 38-45). The "slippery slope" may be a tired cliché but it is germane to the harm these laws portend. Ultimately, they hinge on the real moral quagmire: that a life of extreme human suffering is worse than no life at all. This is a dilemma for ethicists and theologians to discourse, and not one that legislators (nor empowered medical professionals) have any relevant expertise or greater moral insight to determine.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr W.R. Church.

Sincerely,
William Church

[REDACTED]