

Health and Environment Committee

From:
Sent: Monday, 7 June 2021 4:52 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: So many problems with VAD Bill

Re: So many problems with VAD Bill

Dear Health and Environment Committee,

I am deeply troubled by the Voluntary Assisted Dying 2021 Bill.

There are so many problems with this Bill. For one, how can a patient be given access to assisted suicide without being required to see a specialist in the area of their suffering?

This is outlined in Part 5, Section 82(1) A medical practitioner is eligible to act as a coordinating practitioner or consulting practitioner for a person requesting access to voluntary assisted dying if (a) the medical practitioner (ii) holds general registration and has practised for at least 5 years as the holder of that registration.

A cancer patient doesn't need to see an oncologist before they're approved to kill themselves. What if their condition is improving? What if there are other treatments? What if there are support networks that could dramatically improve their life?

It's unbelievable that a person who wants to end their life is not first seen by a specialist in their condition. This is just one of the terrible failures in this Bill. I urge you to reject it.

Sincerely,

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