

Health and Environment Committee

From:
Sent: Monday, 7 June 2021 4:28 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: Insufficient mental health checks

Re: Insufficient mental health checks

Dear Health and Environment Committee,

I am greatly concerned about the Voluntary Assisted Dying 2021 Bill.

The Bill includes no requirement for those requesting assisted suicide to be assessed by a mental health expert or psychiatrist (refer to Part 2 Requirements for access to voluntary assisted dying). Yet mental anguish and depression is often one of the main drivers for requests for euthanasia.

Under the Bill, a person who is terminally ill – but not necessarily facing imminent death – can end their lives prematurely because they're depressed. They don't need to see a counsellor beforehand. Why? Surely this is the most basic care they should be afforded before cutting short their days? Shouldn't someone who is considering taking their own life see a psychiatrist?

This is just one of the many problems with the Bill. I am strongly opposed to it and I urge you to reject it.

Sincerely,

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