End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Murdo MacLeod and Mary MacLeod

I am more than a little concerned with the implication of this Bill if it becomes law. I am very much afraid that this will put pressure on people who feel, often wrongly, they are a burden to others, to request that their lives be ended.

I see no dignity in the death of a person who decides to end his or her life. Rather then minimum distress I would have thought that the opposite would be the case. There is much more dignity and minimum distress provided through the good health care and palliative medicine that is now available.

The fact that the BMA and professional medical bodies do not support the proposed legislation speaks volumes. There will be some Doctors for whom providing 'end of life assistance' will be tantamount to murder. This is the opposite of Hippocratic oath.

As has been the experience elsewhere there will be abuses.

I am firmly of the belief that in a modern civilised society, where medical advances are continually being made, there is absolutely no need for this legislation. it will put undue pressure on, often, frail, sick people who should be encouraged rather than being greatly discouraged, as many will be, through the passing of this Bill.

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