End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Colin McLachlan

My understanding is that the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill, (ELA), has now been assigned to a committee of MSP’s for consideration and this letter is written to address this committee.

I have great concerns about this proposed legislation and I feel it’s very important that your committee understands the depths of peoples concerns about this.

I believe human life has intrinsic worth and if society accepts assisted suicide or euthanasia as an option to the end of ones life, then that degrades that intrinsic value and will effectively mean that at some stage certain lives will no longer be regarded as having this worth.

Having been through this situation myself with my own mother when she was terminally ill with a brain tumour, I was immensely grateful for the palliative care she received during this time until she passed away. I can’t imagine being presented with an option of assisted suicide or euthanasia when in this type of situation, and although I am aware that various supposed safeguards are proposed for the legislation, it is inevitable that both the terminally ill and carers will feel a pressure that was never there before, were this to become law. I’m afraid that no matter how you look at it, this is the thin end of a very dangerous wedge. One of the most telling factors continues to be that the professional medical bodies and the BMA do not support assisted suicide.

I don’t believe that this proposed legislation should get beyond the committee stage. It has been the clearly expressed will of both the Scottish Parliament and Westminster in recent years to be opposed to assisted suicide when this issue has been debated and I trust this will continue to be the case.

Colin McLachlan
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