End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

David Moir

I wish to register my opposition to the proposed "End of Life (Scotland) Bill" currently being examined by your Committee.

As a committed Christian, I believe very much in the sanctity and worth of human life, and believe that the passing of such a bill would show a very real diminution by society in general of this principle that has been at the heart of our Scottish society for generations.

My own mother suffered from Alzheimer’s disease for the last 13 years of her life. Many times during all of that time the quality of her life might have appeared to many to be minimal and had such legislation been in place, many might have thought it "convenient" and "humane" to have exercised the right to assist her in dying. Had that been done it would have impoverished our family life to a great extent. We have many happy memories of visiting, especially at those times when a degree of lucidity had returned and recognition of our presence was obvious in her facial expressions.

Grandchildren visited the only surviving grandparent and have happy memories of her in her care-home, memories and images which we could have denied them by invoking such legislation had it been in place. Her illness was severe. However, because of the wonderful care given in the care-home, she was allowed to live out her years in dignity, and at the last, with the family around, because of modern palliative care, die peacefully.

This bill is a bill of convenience for this society, and for individuals who cannot see the dignity and worth of any human, regardless of their state of health. Society must instead in my view focus on the care of the very ill and the continuing improvement in the palliative care of those individuals who are terminally ill.

Trust this e-mail will be considered by your committee and that the Scottish Parliament will see fit to consign the bill to the bin where I believe it belongs.

David Moir
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