End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

May MacAskill

While you consider the implications of this bill, I would respectfully ask you to look at the following concerns.

At a recent hustings meeting, four of the five candidates felt the guidelines to such a bill could never be drawn exactly enough to prevent abuses.

These abuses have already happened in states where assisted suicide is now legal.

The old, fragile, disabled would be risk of persuasion to relieve the burden they believe they place on others.

A much better solution would be to improve and increase the facilities for palliative care—of course, this would cost money. Dare we then suggest that this bill is partly a cost cutting exercise?

Who decides what is an intolerable level of suffering? Proposers of the bill say it would help people to "die with dignity." What is dignity? Dignity is shown in the attitude of people, not in their bodily condition.

A severe responsibility would be placed on doctors -- a responsibility which most in the profession do not want imposed on them.

I, like many others, am opposed to the bill becoming law.

May MacAskill

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