End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Helen Sarah Gillespie

I do not agree that a person should be able to request end of life assistance from a doctor. I am a final year medical student, to fund my degree; I have worked for seven years in a hospital/home for extremely physically disabled people. These people experience pain and difficulties every day of their lives. Many of them have terminal illnesses. Despite this, many of them have led wonderful lives with their disability and pain. One has achieved a PhD, one is able to travel around the world, a poet, an artist and most of all they encourage each other! If this bill were to pass, we would be sending a message to these people that they are not considered valuable members of society.

Secondly, as a prospective doctor, I will have many responsibilities and I do not feel that this should be one of them. If I were to assist someone to die, I could not live with myself, having entered medicine with the intention to cure. I feel that it is almost selfish to ask this from the medical profession. Today palliative care is so advanced, but has poor funding. Money should be given to palliative care to increase services rather than to fund physician assisted suicide.

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1 May 2010