End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Mr J Quinn

- Do you agree a person should be able to request end of life assistance from a registered medical practitioner? No
- Are you satisfied with the requirements for age and connection with Scotland as set out in the Bill? No
- Are you satisfied with the two categories of people who would qualify to be assisted under the terms of the Bill? No
- The Bill outlines a several stage consent and verification process that would be required to be followed for an eligible person to receive end of life assistance. Are you satisfied with this process? No
- Do you consider the level and nature of safeguards as set out in the Bill to be appropriate? Please see statement below
- Do you have any other considerations on the Bill not included in answers to the above questions?

When the Abortion Act 1967 was being debated, we were told that it would be very limited in its application. You will be well aware of what has happened since that time and that what we now have is abortion virtually on demand. The same thing will happen with this legislation regardless of the effort of the finest minds to try and convince us otherwise. Eventually, and probably sooner rather than later, the elderly and infirm will be selected for death as a result of intimidation, coercion, fear of being burdensome and even deliberate misinterpretation of the law, with some being selected on the basis that they are unfit or unable to make the choice for themselves. The first step in misinterpretation has been taken by the use of the sanitised wording for the name of the proposed Bill. That basic of all rights, the right to life is being removed.

People who need our care are there for that very purpose, to test us in love. We are deceived if we have been persuaded that the unnatural ending of life in order to alleviate suffering is a caring act. To truly care is to do all in our power to relieve that suffering.

Should this proposal become law then it will provide the means for a subtle reintroduction of capital punishment. It will further provide the means whereby those infants who have evaded the screening for disabilities can be eliminated when they are born with so called defects.

It is impossible to enshrine in law, the so called rights of some persons (who incidentally are a tiny minority compared with those who are not in favour of such a provision) to kill themselves or be assisted in such action while at the
same time safeguarding and guaranteeing the rights of those who are opposed to the unnatural ending of life.

I am further concerned that there is a significant economical hidden agenda surrounding this proposed legislation.

The proposer and supporters of this legislation will be greatly satisfied if this Bill becomes law in any shape or form because they will be only to aware that it will eventually be amended to suit their aims.

Mr J Quinn
1 May 2010