End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill  

Alison Williamson

I am writing to express my concern over the ELA Bill.

I have two parents - in - law who both died of cancer and were well looked after, one at the Oncology ward in Edinburgh and the second at the Hospice in Denny. Neither wished to die and were not left in unbearable pain at the end. Neither needed the ELA Bill to provide for their ending.

I have two of my own parents aged 81 who are frightened by their diminishing worth in society and are concerned that such a bill would infringe on the length of their life. What happens when someone decides they should suffer no longer and the doctor has the right to administer the final dose to death? There is fear of abuse.

In both the state of Oregon and the Netherlands assisted suicide has been abused.

My concern is that those who become depressed at a younger age will find the ELA Bill to easy a way out when with proper support they can overcome their troubles and live a fulfilled life. I speak personally as I have been through two doubts of depression, one lasting seven years and one more recently. It did not require medication but lengthy chats from the doctor and different approaches to thinking. I would have feared I was too much for the NHS in the first bout of depression. Unless one has been depressed one has no idea of how easy it would be to take one's life if the option were there.

The government should not be looking at offering an easy path but adding to the already fantastic system of support that is in place and encouraging life.

Alison Williamson

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