End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

John Holden

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

I have been a doctor for 34 years and a general practitioner for 26 years. I have cared for many people nearing the end of their lives, whether formally terminally ill or not. What almost of all them share is a great desire not to be a burden to others, especially their families. ‘I don’t want to be a nuisance,’ is their mantra.

In these circumstances I consider that it is, and would be, almost impossible to know whether a request for their life to be ended was motivated mainly by a false consideration of others.

In short, for those who are ill, frightened and vulnerable a right to die becomes a duty to die. We would calm their fears by killing, not caring.

There are other important reasons why euthanasia in all its guises should not become legal. I remain convinced that it would be both extremely unwise, and morally wrong, for the Scottish Parliament to pass any legislation granting a ‘right to die’.

John Holden
General Practitioner
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