I am writing to object to this proposed Bill.

I can understand the difficult dilemma people go through when they are suffering and in pain and cant see any quality of life. It is a very difficult time for them, but I would fear this Bill being passed as I strongly believe it is not our place to take human life, even if it is our own.

We have palliative care that allows people to die with dignity and with a minimum amount of pain and where they can be made comfortable and are well looked after.

Where do we draw the line? What is the meaning of "intolerable" in life. Some people who are quite young I am sure find life "intolerable" and cant see an end to their situations. Do we legalise suicide for them? If there is a child who happens to be born with a handicap, do their parents decide that their child's life is "intolerable". Do carers for elderly people decide that their elderly relative's life is "intolerable" and so just end it? How do we measure the value of life?

In places where assisted suicide has been made legal it has become impossible to police and hence impossible to stop abuse of the system and people are being allowed to die who actually have some quality of life left but their carers have given up. Also I have heard recently of cases in these countries where people are actually being paid to give up their life rather than costing the authorities money to look after them.

I fear that people will actually be afraid to get old because of the fear that their lives will be taken from them in the future when their minds and bodies are frail and they might not have a say in the matter.

If this Bill is passed it is the thin end of the wedge and we should not allow this to happen.

Therefore I appeal to you to stop this Bill being passed in order to allow people to grow old gracefully and to have no fear that in their twilight years their lives might be taken away from them prematurely. I also appeal to stop the Bill in order that anyone with a handicap can have a life without fear.

I have elderly parents and parents in law who are in care, they are very well looked after and my mother in law would often say that she would "just want to get out" but if at that point we had "taken her life" she would not have had the pleasure of meeting and playing with her ten great grandchildren. She now loves when they visit and brighten up that life that she would have given up on a few years ago.
Life is a God given right and no one has the right to take that from another human being. I hope you take this into consideration.

Carol Anderson
6 May 2010