End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Anonymous

I am writing to express in the strongest possible terms my opposition to the ELA Bill. I am not a Health Professional, but I do have personal experience of the case of my aged mother, who under the terms of the ELA Bill, could have had her life legally terminated THIRTEEN years ago at the age of 77 – and several time since then.

Mum was diabetic and blind and became terribly ill. Life was not worth living. She couldn't walk any more and was becoming more dependant by the day....UNTIL she was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. She was given medication which worked wonders for the next ten years.

Then there was a further deterioration. Mum now needed care and became more and more dependant. She had to be carried upstairs to bed. She had to be fed, washed and toiletted by strangers. Life was not worth living...UNTIL Mum was taken in to hospital for assessment and eventually taken into a nursing home.

Today she has a very good quality of life. She walks unaided. She has her own bed and furniture in her room. She is being well fed and has her medication at regular intervals. We are free to phone her or visit her at any time and take her out for meals or to visit friends and family.

There has been an amazing change for the better, against all the predictions. During these years, my relationship with Mum has improved enormously. Family disputes have been settled and Mum has seen the arrival of four great-grand children.

I am so grateful that the ELA Bill was not in operation during these years as our family life would have been much the poorer for it.

I am concerned that the introduction of this Bill will change society for ever, and not for the better. Currently there is good palliative care available. Vulnerable people will feel that they should end their lives. Elderly people will feel that they are a burden, and there will be a huge strain on the medical profession.

PLEASE do every thing in your power to make sure that this Bill does not become law.

Anonymous
8 May 2010