End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

D Gerry Ross

I wish to oppose Margo Macdonalds end of life assistance bill.

I have worked with "handicapped" young people for a number of years and have observed that while there have been good times and difficult times, their lives are in the main valued by themselves, parents carers etc. If this proposed bill was passed it could put large numbers of "handicapped" people at risk when either they, their parents or carers etc are going through a difficult time in their lives, as we all do, and are then offered or encouraged to take the suicide option rather than be given medical help and support they actually need.

The 1967 Abortion Bill was passed with so called safeguards to prevent abuse. Abortion is now sadly commonplace with many of the original "safeguards" either being removed or by-passed to suit the convenience of people who have no thought or respect for live. What guarantee is there that the same abuses would not happen if the assisted suicide bill was passed? The proposed "safeguards" are not sufficient and look like a sop to get the bill through.

Laws should be passed to safeguard the public and this bill is passed it could put a lot of vulnerable people at risk. The right to die might well become the duty to die rather than be a perceived burden to others. Cash strapped hospital trusts could see this as an easy answer to their problems and would medical staff be allowed to opt out? Allowing 16 year olds the right to make this type of decision seems horrendous considering a 16 year old cannot cast a vote and is yet to be deemed able to give away such a precious gift as life.

I want to continue to regard my Doctor as a healer and not as a terminator. Please consign this attempt by Margo Macdonald to "play God" to the dustbin where it belongs.

D Gerry Ross
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