Do you agree a person should be able to request end of life assistance from a registered medical practitioner?

No. The WHO would describe such a thing as immoral. To “legally” (sic) kill someone goes against everything we’ve been trained to do.

Are you satisfied with the requirements for age and connection with Scotland as set out in the Bill?

No. Definitions and time-scales are far too loose.

Are you satisfied with the two categories of people who would qualify to be assisted under the terms of the Bill?

No. The requirements are too fluid. As was demonstrated with the abortion act, despite having “strict” criteria, the categories of people who qualify to be assisted appear to be open to interpretation. Indeed the author of the abortion act is appalled at how manipulated that act has become.

The Bill outlines a several stage consent and verification process that would be required to be followed for an eligible person to receive end of life assistance. Are you satisfied with this process?

No. The Royal Colleges, most notably the College for psychiatrists are opposed to it. Therefore I don’t think it will work. Also not every person, including health care professionals are trustworthy e.g. Shipman, therefore I fear that again it could be manipulated or abused.

Do you consider the level and nature of safeguards as set out in the Bill to be appropriate?

No – as detailed above I fear that like the author of the abortion act, we’ll look back and would regret such a bill ever happening due to the fact that safeguards and definitions can be manipulated. Additionally the safeguards regarding time scales are far too short. A patient who is depressed may ask to end their life within that time, and yet they could have been made well, however this would have taken longer than the time scale laid out.

Do you have any other considerations on the Bill not included in answers to the above questions?

Yes – see below:

- Killing is immoral. The WHO agrees that it is immoral.
There is no conscious clause. Even if there was one, I fear this would potentially lead to discrimination against Doctors who would refuse to kill their patient.

All the Royal Colleges of Medicine and the BMA do not support assisted suicide.

Legalising assisted suicide sends a message to society that some lives have no meaning, and it also sends a message to ill and vulnerable patients that they should commit suicide so as to not be a burden on their family or country.

Jonathan Baillie
Final Year Medical Student at Glasgow University
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