This is a submission from a private individual

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

No, no-one should have the right to request such help to kill themselves from anyone, but especially not from a registered medical practitioner.

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

No. No laws should be passed which allow one person to kill another.

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

No. No laws should be passed which allow one person to kill another.

**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. No such laws should be passed.

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

No. The safeguards are seriously defective, but no matter how detailed the laws, if any law is passed to allow killing of one human being by another, safeguards are illusory.

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

Yes. Having spent all my working life as a hospital physician, I believe legalising assisted suicide is unnecessary and places the lives of vulnerable people at serious risk. It is immoral, and doctors should have nothing whatever to do with it.

This bill also aims to legalise euthanasia. There is no conscience clause in this bill for doctors (the vast majority of doctors) who believe killing is wrong. Yet this bill seeks to establish a right to be killed if certain criteria are met, and seeks to compel doctors to kill.
Euthanasia is not “dying with dignity”. All doctors try to help their patients to die with dignity, and the hospice movement has done a great deal to help train doctors to achieve this aim.

Conclusion
Please do not legalise either assisted suicide or euthanasia. In a lifetime of practising hospital medicine I do not believe I have seen any circumstances in which this would have been anything other than both unnecessary and devastatingly destructive of the trust that must exist between doctor and patient. It has been rejected by both the medical profession and parliament.

Lilian E. Murchison
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