End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

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This End of Life Assistance Bill is a threat to the current values of our society. Our aim should be to care for people properly throughout their time of suffering and disability, and seek to make them as comfortable as possible, and feel valued and loved. I believe that physician assisted suicide is wrong, and will ultimately impair the doctor-patient relationship. In particular, elderly sick and/or disabled people might feel pressurized to opt for assisted suicide if they think they are a burden on family and society.

My mother was a Christian, a qualified nurse, and was against euthanasia. Yet I was told she asked a member of the night staff in the Nursing Home for help to end her life. I tried my best to have her looked after in a better way but got nowhere.

Having seen firsthand the poor quality of palliative care given to my mother and mother-in law in Scotland around 1997-2003 both in hospitals and Care Homes, I think far greater effort and resources should be put into caring properly for people who need help to control pain and to relieve medical symptoms, as well as meet their emotional and spiritual needs.

Places for people to be looked after with needs such as those which my mother and mother-in-law had were and still are very limited, and we were pressurized to take what was available to get them out of hospital and free up the beds. Our family was unable to care for them at home when their needs and disabilities became too great.

I read that Dr Els Borst former Health Minister and Deputy Prime Minister who guided the law for legalized euthanasia through the Dutch Parliament has admitted medical care for the terminally ill had declined since this law came into effect. What is going to happen then in this country I wonder? Will the scarce resources be diverted away from much needed palliative care centers to assisted suicide centers?

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