I would recommend that the committee ask MSP’s to reject this bill. I believe it to wrong in principle that anyone should be allowed, less encouraged, to ask another, less a member of a caring profession, to actively kill him/her. Assisting to end life is only a euphemism.

It is further wrong to expect a doctor who conscientiously objects to such ‘mercy’ killing to participate by referring the patient to another doctor. If I were in that position, I would prefer not to know of other doctors willing to be involved with it.

The possibility that a doctor or other person in a position of care could decide that a patient should be encouraged to ask to be killed is abhorrent.

The dignity of the person being expected to carry out the killing procedure ought to be considered. Human dignity is absolute, not dependent on ‘quality’ of life. It may be that a person only really understands his/her own dignity on the deathbed seeing that others care.

J Myles