Please would you consider the following submission from us, on the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill as introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 20 Jan 2010.

- We do not agree the proposition that a person should be able to request end of life assistance. While there are instances where measures taken to keep an ill or dying person alive can be reasonably viewed as excessive, we take the view suicide is wrong and end of life as described in the Bill is indeed suicide.

- Based on this fundamental position on suicide, we are not satisfied with the requirements for age and connection with Scotland as set out in the Bill.

- Based on this fundamental position on suicide, we are not satisfied with the categories of people who would qualify to be assisted, as set out in the Bill.

- Based on this fundamental position on suicide, we are not satisfied with the process that would be required, as set out in the Bill.

- Based on this fundamental position on suicide, we are not satisfied with the safeguards as set out in the Bill. Furthermore, we fear such safeguards would be changed and fall away over time, placing increased numbers of vulnerable people at risk.

- One of the hallmarks of a civilised society is reverence for elderly and disabled people. We believe the Bill does not promote respect, and helps towards an unacceptable state of affairs where elderly and disabled people are viewed as being of little or no value and an intolerable burden.

John and Anne Merritt
11 May 2010