End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Christopher Dyos

I would like to register my wholehearted opposition to this Bill. My brief answers to the questions are set out below, in the hope that if enough like-minded people and MSP's raise objections it will be resoundingly defeated.

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

No. It is an unfair burden to ask of medical practitioners, and could lead to pressure being exerted on either party by others.

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

16 is way too low - driving at 17, voting at 18..!

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

No. 'Terminally ill' doesn't mean terminal NOW.

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

No. There will always be cases of undue influence and pressure being applied that could get through any consent processes.

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

No. As a matter of principle, I believe no safeguards would ever be enough.

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

Although I am not a believer in the sanctity of life in all circumstances, I do believe that any Bill like this opens the door to abuse - when does a 'right' to die become a 'duty' to die? Surely one of the hallmarks of a civilised society is how well it cares for its most vulnerable members.

Christopher Dyos
12 May 2010