Dear Sir/Madam,

I am deeply concerned about Margo MacDonald's End of Life Assistance Bill. I do not wish to see assisted suicide and euthanasia legalized in Scotland.

There are practical and effective alternatives to euthanasia. Modern palliative care is a wonderful development in caring, showing that it is not necessary to kill the patient in order to kill the pain.

There is a very real possibility that euthanasia legislation would increase anxieties for elderly and disabled people admitted to hospital, and erode trust in the actions and motivation of health staff. The patient-carer relationship would be unavoidably altered.

The Hippocratic Oath specifically rules out both euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. It is important to note that the BMA and professional medical bodies do not support assisted suicide.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona McCulloch