The End of Life Assistance Bill Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP  

17th April 2010

Dear Sir / Madam,

End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

I am writing regarding your consultation on and my opposition to the legalisation of assisted suicide.

My understanding is that the law currently prohibits assisted suicide in order to protect those who are in a vulnerable position because of illness, or disability. I cannot say I understand what someone with severe, debilitating illness is going through but I can try to empathise with their probable despair, fear and perhaps depression. And because of what they are experiencing could easily make a decision to end their lives as a way to stop their suffering.

But it should not have to be like that. Since the 1960s the hospice movement has grown and there have been great advances in palliative care, meeting the holistic needs of patients effectively. More resources from the government should be put into this aspect of the NHS and its care for those without a cure. More care for those in hospices, hospitals or the community will cost more but surely as a caring society that is a cost we should gladly bear.

Legalising assisted suicide could so easily lead to euthanasia where, God forbid, those in power decide it is a cheaper option than providing pain relief and so on in a hospice where people can die with dignity.

‘Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death’ (Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 2). We are not God, he is.

Yours sincerely,

Alasdair D Campbell