The End of Life Assistance Bill Committee,
T3.60 The Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been following the progress of Margo Macdonald's Bill with great concern, and wish to state how strongly opposed I am to its objective.

Its vagueness is exemplified in the absence of definition of "find life intolerable" means. Terminally ill people can be given the very special and wonderful care of our Hospice staff in various parts of Scotland now. I also think that doctors should explain to patients they can choose not to take treatments (e.g., chemotherapy) which may prolong life a little but not add any distinctive quality to it.

Do our doctors really want to be given the responsibility of "assisting" a patient to end his or her life (by whatever means)? That would be very different from their obligation under oath to do only what is in their patients' highest good. Were Ms. Macdonald's Bill to be passed, robust safeguards would be in place to ensure vulnerable, frail, possibly mentally confused patients from being urged up the option of having life ended by "assistance", when they could be pressurized to do so. Would there be a "conscientious clause" for doctors and nurses in this, as in other controversial moral issues?

I hope to hear that this unhelpful Bill will progress no further.

Yours faithfully,

Shirley A Fraser