Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you as a Medical Student to formally register my deep concerns about the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill 2010. I am 100% AGAINST this Bill. Please read and consider my worries and opinions detailed below:

- There is no need for this service! We have already catered for the dignified death of patients with high-quality palliative care.

- 'Willing to commit murder' was not in the job description when I applied to medical school. This is not the role of a doctor; we entered this profession to CARE FOR and HELP patients, not KILL them.

- We should be eliminating the patient's health, mental and spiritual problems by addressing them and treating them, not by eliminating the patient.

- The vague and broad criteria means that thousands of people would qualify, including those with relatively common and non-life-threatening conditions such as insulin-dependent diabetes or lung disease.

- This Bill sends the message of: "You are a burden and your life is worthless!" to many old, infirm and vulnerable people.
Many of these elderly people may be convinced to seek assisted suicide because they believe themselves to be a burden to the NHS and to society as a whole.

* When given bad news, many people take weeks if not months to digest the information and come to terms with it. When they have, the majority can go on to receive effective treatment and enjoy many more happy years with friends and family. The Bills proposed timings mean that one of these people could end their lives prematurely thinking it to be ‘intolerable’ when they really only needed some time to get to grips with their condition.

* Many external influences could be driving a person to seek assisted suicide. How would we know that this was TRULY the patient’s decision?!

We should not attempt to play God! People make mistakes, personal agendas or outside influences can cloud our judgement, we cannot safe-guard this ‘service,’ and protect the thousands of people who would be made vulnerable because of it. Please humbly admit that this is NOT our role and we cannot handle the responsibility of choosing who lives and who dies!

Yours Sincerely

Jennifer Louise Adamson