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

30th April 2010

Dear Sir,  
re: End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill.

I am deeply concerned about the content of this Bill. People’s lives are precious and each person is part of our society. If we consider one person’s life as being of no longer of any value – how can we be sure that anyone’s life is worth saving?  

Elderly people with no family are not uncommon and once they become seriously ill and apparently nearing the end of their lives, their demise is hastened by the use of drugs. Sometimes this is the unintended outcome of pain relief which has been essential to keep them comfortable. But not always - was is safe from being dispatched prematurely?

How can people who are ill, of any age, be protected from thinking their lives are unimportant and of no value to society? This is the vital question to be answered in our society where so many suffer from low self-esteem and low achievement often due to family breakdown. I meet these people as a volunteer counsellor in Dundee. Please consider very carefully
how to help our society become one of increased self-esteem and higher levels of successful employment, rather than how to assist people to die prematurely because they consider their lives to be worthless.

Yours faithfully

Susan M Preston