Dear Joanne Lamont / Committee Members

I am deeply concerned about the implications of the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill proposed by M.S.P. Margo Macdonald for the following reasons:

1. It will lead to elderly, sick and disabled people believing they are a burden to society.

2. It is against good medical practice. Doctors swear an oath to save lives. This bill will allow them to end life.

3. It is an unnecessary law. If Margo Macdonald or any other author of this bill want to end their lives, let them do so before their health deteriorates to such an extent that they need assistance.

4. We don't need a new law that could affect the rights of millions of people for the sake of the wishes of relatively few others.

5. This law would be seen as a cheap alternative to good medical care which in many cases is funded by charities.
I HAD A VERY CLOSE FRIEND WHO WAS TERMINALLY ILL WITH CANCER. SHE KNEW SHE WAS DYING BUT THROUGHOUT HER VERY SEVERE PAIN SHE NEVER ONCE ASKED TO BE HELPED TO END HER LIFE. SHE WAS CARED FOR WITH LOVE BY HER FAMILY & VOLUNTARY NURSES UNTIL SHE PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY SURROUNDED BY HER FRIENDS AND FAMILY. THE MANNER OF HER DEATH HELPED HER FAMILY TO COME TO TERMS WITH HER DEATH. I WONDER HOW THE FAMILY OF AN ASSISTED SUICIDE WOULD FEEL.

I Murphy

28-4-10