End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh

Dear Members,

I am very concerned that you should not recommend Margaret McDonald’s proposals to legalise assisted dying. This would be a nightmare for doctors, whom we trust to make us as well as possible and we would lose confidence and trust in them especially when we were ill and in the last years of life.

There would be great pressure on individuals and families at critical stages of illness and conditions in psychological and financial aspects. The emotional pressures in such circumstances are significantly changed for the better, with all the right medical care and support for the individuals and families eg hospices home care etc.

A mother of teenagers shared with me the scary and hopeless conclusions that many came to at school discussions, saying that “if you have a serious degenerative condition life is not worth living any longer so the person should be helped to die whatever age they are.

Life is precious and we should do all we can to help everyone, especially those with huge medical problems to fulfil their potential at every stage of life, till the natural end. There is so much doctors can do positively for pain and distress relief.

I have young friends with M.S. so I do care and pray for them and Margaret McDonald too.

Yours sincerely,

(And all of you)

Sandra Black