Dear Sir/Madam

I hope that some of my heart will come across in this letter, my father committed suicide some 35 years ago. He had tried to take his life when I was a young child, but in protecting me I was never aware he had tried this. But in his later days when I knew within myself that there was something wrong and having sought out his doctor, and could get no help for my Dad. He was also unable to speak about it, and it was only later that I understood that due to peoples attitude towards suicide and the old fashioned idea of the shame attached, he was unable to seek proper help. His death was a tragedy for his family, the only thing I can be thankful for is he was at peace from the torment of mind he must have been in.

I oppose the proposed bill, not to make any judgement on people who are in distress, because there right of freedom of choice to take their own lives in theirs. This bill will open yet unknown doors to people who think they have the right to decide when a life should end. It must rest with the person themselves if they which to take their own lives.

Suicide in not an accident but a mental state of mind that leaves a person to take a decision to end their lives, when they are or feel there is no hope left for them. But that person is not able to envisage the absolute hell and torment that families are left in by such an act. While peace for the person may be achieved, it does not stop there.

IF ANYONE THINKS THAT BY PASSING A BILL FOR ASSISTED SUICIDE WILL REMOVE ANY ANGUISH FROM THEIR FAMILY, I WISH THEY WOULD THINK AGAIN. IT WILL REMOVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL PAIN, BUT WILL LEAVE AN INHERITANCE ON THEIR FAMILY THAT I WOULD NOT WISH ON ANYONE. SUICIDE IS SUICIDE THE CONSEQUENCES DOES NOT ALTER BY ADDING ASSISTED IN FRONT OF IT.

The need for proper care and understanding of the mind must be pursued by our society and the individual. People are frightened because they do not understand the workings of the mind (not that I would pretend to understand fully). People are judged heavily and treated with contempt when there is a suicide in their family. A law for assisted will not change this, only more proper help and education.

I believe that this bill will open more evils than ever can be envisaged, but that the pursuance of greater care, help and understanding would open doors for greater good.

I would presume that those who are seeking this bill are doing so to try and protect their families and doctors from the consequences of assisted suicide, and not just seeking to ensure their own peace.
I would encourage all those seeking to have this bill passed to seek out families who have been involved in assisted suicide and also families of those who have taken their own lives.

However can this bill be defined, who can ever diagnose what constitutes assisted suicide, what drives a person to such a decision. For it is not only ill health, but people who are desperate in other areas, it could be debt, it could be family break-up, it could be isolation, it could be one of a thousand things that are very real to that person at the time. WHO IS GOING TO DETERMINE THAT ASSISTED SUICIDE IS AN ACT OF COMPASSION WHEN YOU SEE A LOVED ONE IN TURMOIL, FOR WHAT EVER REASON?

My plea and prayers would be that people would seriously think again and pursue a greater understanding of the care and help people require when seeking to take their own lives, and that we would learn as individuals how to help people through their most desperate needs.

Yours most sincerely

Anonymous

CC Margo McDonald