(copy from email)

For the attention of Miles Briggs MSP

Regarding Proposed Assisted Suicide Bill

Everyone has the inherent 'right' to be given medical, social and spiritual care due to their dignity, uniqueness and sacredness.

Hospices in Scotland date back to the 14th century and have provided life-giving medical care to those who are suffering from terminal illness.

Hospices are held in great esteem and highly trusted because of their Medical Staff's specialised skills in Palliative Care. Some funding is received by NHS but crucially Hospices have always been supported by friends, volunteers, bequests and fundraising events. All these dedicated people have one thing in common 'to enable patients to live through their dying '.

People with a terminal illness are supported to live as much as possible and enjoy what life they have left with the love of their families and friends around them. The Medical Teams are Professionals highly trained in Palliative medical care so are on the front line of the best in delivering this specialised treatment. Indeed the whole family are supported with true compassion, counselling and advice before, during and after their loved one has departed.

The presentation of such a Bill as a choice is contradictory in that the people of Scotland haven't had a vote on this very contentious subject.

Only those in Government have raised this and made it an issue.

This assisted dying Bill raises the real fear of going down the slippery slope to A.S on demand; medics in this field are human and open to becoming judges not live givers, making choices from the patient ' judging on their 'quality of life' and ending life. This proposal of A.S. CANNOT be controlled by any policy, legal systems etc. This is and will be fraught with life threatening consequences. Look to Canada and see the fallout and the people coerced into A.S., fearing they cannot go into hospital, what happens when they run out of health care funds etc.

NO ONE can be trusted with such trust! This is putting the lives of the poor; families with disabled children/dependants; fear of the Doctors they trusted and the weak and frail who could be in high risk situations.

There are plenty of other countries who have A.S. ie Canada, USA State of Oregon, the Netherlands. There is an unhealthy lack of conscience and compassion to 'life' at all levels here and in other places around the world ie., a death culture. One has to ask seriously 'why'? This is a 'Pandora's box' and once opened cannot be controlled.

We must never ever sink to such low levels as to strip any person of their inherent rights to health care, and the sacredness and dignity of each individual.

FROM…

MARIA MCGUIRE, [REDACTED]

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