



19/7/2015.

MARIA BREED

Dear Sir/Madam.

It has come to my notice that the legal and Social Issues Committee is inquiring into 'End-of-life Choices'. With this in mind I would like to strongly advise against the legalization of euthanasia.

In the last ten years I and my siblings, nursed/cared for, both our parents at the end of their lives. I also helped care for my mother-in-law in the last year of her life. With all three parents we were wonderfully assisted by the doctors and palliative care nurses, and care assistants. As a team we were able to make our parents feel valued and loved and in spite of their suffering saw them die a happy and peaceful death.

After their respective deaths I spoke to my relatives in Holland and found that the situation there is very different, with older people feeling the pressure 'not to burden the family' by dying a natural death, and choose euthanasia instead. As a result many older

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people being afraid that they will be euthanased without their express wish, as the so called 'safe guards' have failed in a number of cases. I would not want to be in the same situation as my Dutch relatives as I get older.

Furthermore, my son is a doctor who in his medical promise vowed 'to do no harm'. I would be appalled if he would have to harm his conscience by assisting in killing a patient.

On the evidence that I have, euthanasia would be a blight on our community. It is not in the best interest of the patient, family or carers, as it brings with it a lack of respect for human life and a culture of death.

I hope you will carefully consider and choose the path of respect for human life.

Yours sincerely

Maria Breed.