

From: Helen Compton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2015 6:59 PM
To: LSIC
Subject: Inquiry into End of Life Choices - Submission

Good evening

I am writing to express my support for all people to have an end of life choice. I have some experiences to share which will explain why I believe passionately that this should be enshrined in law.

My mother was diagnosed with motor neurone disease at 46 years old. The disease can move very quickly to rob a person of any choice or independence in their life. She died because the nerves which told the muscles to operate the breathing mechanism stopped working. This was followed a 4 year steady decline of mobility and ability to communicate with the world. We as a family looked at lots of options for end of life choice, none of which were available to her at that time. Her last days were not peaceful and serene they were a despairing fight which was inevitable and could have been avoided had end of life choice been available.

My grandmother suffered a series of strokes which left her unable to communicate, feed or look after herself. She spent the last 2 months of her life in hospital, subject to people feeding her, washing her, turning her, moving her all without her input or consent. Nurses do an amazing job but people become bodies to have actions done to them. If an end of life choice had been available to my Granny she could have chosen the time and place of her passing and left with dignity surrounded by the people who loved her.

A dear friend of mine was diagnosed with inoperable Bowel cancer. We nursed her at home for 3 months. Every day she asked to be released, her pain was extremely hard to manage and bring under control.

Eventually she stopped eating and drinking and in effect starved herself to death. An awful, barbaric, inhumane way to treat a human being. Devastating for her family and loved ones. Had she been given an end of life choice her passing would have been easier and her loved ones would not be left with the memory of her slowly wasting away.

Yes there need to be checks and balances, no one wants people going round deciding who will live and who will die based on a whim. But if a person in their sound mind, who understands the choices available to them, would rather die than continue to suffer, for whatever reason, what right do we have to prevent them from doing so?

There are countries where this is working well, we have a lot to learn from them.

I urge anyone who is against end of life choice to sit with and look after someone who is terminally ill. I know you will change your mind.

No-one will be taking the role of God, all you are doing is allowing someone with full knowledge to be master of their destiny.

I urge you to vote to allow End of life choices to happen with dignity.

Regards

Helen

Helen Compton
 [REDACTED]



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