

Please convey the following to the parliamentary committee that is considering the proposed legislation on assisted dying.

While I believe a number of amendments are required, I wish to argue for one in particular.

I have signed a legally executed representation agreement which includes an advance request for assistance with dying. I urge the committee to amend the legislation to recognize my right to have this request acted on if I suffer from dementia or Alzheimer's and certain conditions, specified in the representation agreement, are met..

An email to me from Joyce Murray, my MP, suggested there are three areas of concern that have led to restrictions on the right to assisted dying in the proposed legislation:

- people hold different views on assisted dying
- we must consider rights of conscience
- we must protect the vulnerable.

On the first two, I have no wish to force those who have different views, or conscientious objections, to do what I want to do, or help me do it. By the same token, their views and beliefs should not prevent my wishes, which affect me and my family but do not affect them, from being carried out.

I agree that protection of the vulnerable is important, and any legislation that allows assistance with dying must include appropriate and necessary checks to protect the vulnerable. These checks must be in the proposed legislation, regardless of whether or not advance requests for assistance with dying are allowed.

I urge you to propose amendments to the legislation that will allow advance requests for assistance with dying.

Richard Spencer