

Write to the House of Lords about Assisted Suicide

Here are the points which we believe are most likely to be effective in writing to Peers. Please put them in your own words as much as possible.

- The Bill makes no mention of physical suffering as a pre-requisite for eligibility. This means that people with a terminal illness would be able to access an assisted suicide for other reasons, such as mental health problems or feeling a burden.
- We are at significant risk of seeing the scope of the Bill expanded in the years to come, following the examples of Canada, Belgium and the Netherlands. Indeed, at least 50 MPs have already said that they want to see the Bill expanded.
- Many significant professional bodies, including the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the Royal College of Physicians, the Association for Palliative Medicine, and the Royal Geriatrics Society, oppose this Bill. Their reasons, based on their expertise in their respective fields, include the inadequacy of the Mental Capacity Act for the purposes of this Bill, and the existing inequalities in access to palliative care, which fundamentally undermines the notion of "choice" that the Bill presupposes.
- The Secretary of State for Health recently stated that there is no money in the budget for an Assisted Dying service. How many vital services will need to be cut to facilitate the provisions of this Bill? This also happens within a context where palliative care still only receives 30% of its funding from government sources.
- The Commission on Palliative and End of Life Care, published just this Spring, concluded that our end-of-life care system has serious problems that need to be fixed before we should entertain the idea of an assisted dying law.
- The UK's national lead on suicide prevention, Professor Louis Appleby, has suggested that legalising assisted suicide means that "suicide prevention more broadly is undermined".
- The House of Commons lacks a complete majority in favour of this Bill. The majority that it did receive at Third Reading was cut in half from the vote at Second Reading.
- Opinion polls which cite public support for assisted suicide are often highly misleading.
 85% of people who initially support the idea of assisted dying drop their support in part or in full when they are presented with more information about the subject.

We believe the Peers listed below to be undecided on how they might ultimately vote, so contact with them is of the highest importance; should you receive a reply, we would be very grateful to understand their position.

You can write to as many of these as you would like, but if selecting a sample, please select names from this list at random, to give us the best chance of hitting a wide range of names.

Lord Beith	Baroness Altmann
Lord Fuller	Lord Mott
Lord Mancroft	Baroness Neuberger
Lord Patel	Lord Prentis of Leeds
Baroness Prashar	Lord Prior of Brampton
Baroness Prashar	Lord Saatchi
Lord Roberts of Belgravia	Baroness Suttie
Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington	Lord Tarassenko
Baroness Stowell of Beeston	Baroness Thomas of Winchester
Lord Swire	Baroness Tyler of Enfield
Baroness Altmann	Lord Willis of Knaresborough
Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top	Baroness Doocey
Lord Black of Brentwood	Baroness Hussein-Ece
Lord Bradley	Lord Jamieson
Lord Campbell-Savours	Lord Laming
Lord Clark of Windermere	Lord Levy
Lord Collins of Highbury	Lord Meston
Baroness Donaghy	Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen
Lord Drayson	Lord Blunkett
Baroness Elliott of Whitburn Bay	Lord Alton of Liverpool
Lord Forsyth of Drumlean	Baroness Bertin
Baroness Freeman of Steventon	Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames
Baroness Gohir	Lord Polak
Baroness Golding	Baroness Featherstone
Lord Harris of Peckham	Lord Woolley of Woodford
Baroness Hughes of Stretford	The Earl of Lytton
Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top	Baroness Helic
Lord Kakkar	Baroness Jenkin of Kennington
Baroness Kingsmill	Baroness Primarolo
Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court	Lord Randall of Uxbridge
Lord Markham	Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale
Baroness Morgan of Drefelin	Baroness Wilcox of Newport