



OUR LADY & ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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21st April 2025

Lisa Smart MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Lisa

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

Following my letter to you dated 12th November 2024, I am now writing to request that you vote against the above Bill at its next stage of progress through Parliament. The expected vote, initially planned for the end of April, has now been deferred to a later date. The concerns raised by those opposed to this Bill have not been addressed, particularly regarding the deeply flawed process it has undergone in Parliament. It is the duty of every MP to ensure that legislation is not imposed on society without proper scrutiny, especially when it may lead to harmful consequences.

The Bill was published mere days before MPs were expected to vote on it, leaving inadequate time for consultation or reflection. The debate time was minimal — only three days of evidence were taken, and not all voices were heard. Moreover, the committee examining the Bill is disproportionately composed of supporters of the Bill.

It is also disheartening to note that Parliament devoted far more time to debating the ban on fox hunting than to this Private Member's Bill attempting to introduce assisted dying.

As mentioned in my previous letter, how can we be sure that the scope of the Bill will not be extended, as has happened in almost every country where assisted suicide has been introduced? Additionally, what role will the judiciary play in this process? Initially, judicial oversight was deemed crucial, yet we are now being told it is unnecessary - a deeply concerning development.

There is also no assurance that medical practitioners or care workers will not be compelled to participate in assisted suicide.

As a constituent, I am profoundly concerned — not only on principle but also because of Parliament's failure to address this issue responsibly. Thus, I am once again urging you to vote against this flawed Bill at its next reading.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely

M. Gannon.

Canon Michael Gannon
Parish Priest