

OUR LADY & ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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8th June 2025

Lisa Smart MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Dear Lisa

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

This letter is to accompany the enclosed petition, urging you to vote against the above Bill at its Third Reading in Parliament, scheduled for either 13th or 20th June. This Bill is fundamentally flawed in both principle and practice, and I wish to highlight the following concerns:

1. The legislation would require many hospices and care homes to facilitate assisted suicide, jeopardising their ability to provide care. Parliament has already rejected an amendment that would have allowed institutions to opt out of participating in assisted suicide.

2. The Bill places health and social care workers in a difficult position, as provisions for conscientious objection are both unclear and inadequate.

3. While there are supposed safeguards to protect the most vulnerable, they remain insufficient - particularly in cases involving coercive control or social pressure. During Committee Stage, the Bill's primary proponent was unable to confirm whether individuals seeking assisted suicide due to financial concerns or feelings of being a burden would be prevented from accessing it.

On behalf of myself and my fellow petitioners, I fervently urge you, as our MP, to protect the most vulnerable citizens of this country by voting against this flawed Bill later this month.

Yours sincerely

Canon Michael Gannon Parish Priest