

27th March 2008

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to express support for The Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008.

Please accept this submission in support of legalizing voluntary euthanasia. I believe everyone has the right to choose to die with dignity if they want to. I nursed my Father for 10 months and watched him slowly die of bowel and liver cancer. He suffered terrible pain not only from the cancer but from huge bed sores he had due to not being able to get out of bed in the last month of his life. My father also had the humiliation and embarrassment of messing his bed and that I, his daughter had to wipe his bottom, something he could never accept. He was a proud 6 foot tall man who in the end stooped to below 4 foot due to the fact that he didn't have the strength to stand up straight.

Now my father didn't want to die, he clung to life, he wanted to live but he didn't have that choice. It was heartbreaking for us, his family to watch him and it's that memory that sticks in my mind. It's hard to remember my father and not remember how he looked just before his death. It would have been nice to remember him as that proud 6 foot tall man. I know should I get to that stage I wouldn't want to put my family through all that pain, I would want to die with dignity and I think the voluntary euthanasia law should made legal.

Kind regards

Paula G Martin

