

PRESS RELEASE

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The BMA's sensible position to protect the vulnerable

LIFE is relieved at the news that the British Medical Association has voted to maintain its opposition to assisted suicide.

In a ballot which took place yesterday, 63% of doctors at the debate voted against the motion of adopting a neutral stance, while 37% of doctors voted for the motion.

LIFE Spokesman Peter Sullivan said: "Yesterday's result reflects the attitude of doctors and the vulnerable people they care for, across the United Kingdom. It shows that doctors at the BMA have carefully considered the intensive and thorough study done by the association on this issue and have decided that legalising assisted suicide will place their patients at risk and damage the relationship between patients and their doctors.

We commend the BMA for its report titled *End-of-Life Care and Physician-Assisted Suicide* which found that the majority of doctors involved did not support assisted dying and many 'did not see being involved with physician-assisted suicide as compatible with their understanding of their fundamental role and remit as a doctor'.

Asking doctors to act against the Hippocratic oath which commits them to do no harm is a step too far and we understand why they have consistently resisted the lobby from the pro-euthanasia movement. Yesterday's vote is therefore a sensible and well thought through position and doctors at the BMA must be commended for maintaining their opposition to assisted suicide."

For further media comment please call the LIFE Media Hotline on 07867 744502

LIFE is a pro-life charity that supports anyone facing a crisis pregnancy, pregnancy loss or after an abortion, and strives to engage, inspire and inform the next generation to value all human life from beginning to end