

PRESS RELEASE

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LIFE disappointed by yet another Assisted Dying Bill

The national pro-life charity LIFE is disappointed at the emergence of yet another assisted dying bill, this time in the House of Lords.

The [Assisted Dying Bill 2016](#) introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Hayward last week is similar to one which was resoundingly defeated in the House of Commons last September.

LIFE Spokesman Mark Bhagwandin said: "Despite the Assisted Dying Bill being rejected by 7 out of 10 MPs last year, Lord Hayward has still seen it fit to resurrect this bill and put it before the House of Lords.

Lord Hayward should have reflected on why the last bill and similar ones which have come before it have been defeated. It is the duty of parliament to enact laws which protect the vulnerable, the sick, disabled and elderly. The House of Commons took note of the appeal from those who would have been affected by any change in the law, the elderly and disabled and the doctors who care for them and decided that the risks were too great.

Since the bill last year a [new study done by the BMA](#) reveals the very real concerns that doctors have about assisted suicide. It speaks to some of the so called safeguards which this bill and the one last year contain. There is for example the provision that only patients with 6 months to live will receive help to die. But doctors in the report noted the difficulty in predicting how long people have to live. The report states 'The evidenceindicates that this is a very imprecise science and that overall the accuracy of such diagnostic predictions is low'. Doctors were also extremely worried that they may be treated with fear and suspicion by patients if they moved away from their role of healing people to killing people.

Another safeguard in the bill is the need for approval from two doctors. We just have to look at what has happened with the abortion act and the pre-signing of forms scandal to know that this will be abused. It is therefore little wonder that charities which speak for the elderly and disabled have consistently come out in opposition to assisted dying.

Whilst we sympathise with the situation in which some people may find themselves, empowering people with the legal ability to help others to die opens up the very real possibility of abuse. We therefore call on the House of Lords to follow the example of the House of Commons and reject this bill when it comes to the vote."

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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.