

**Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh**

By Email

17 October 2024

Dear Convener,

**Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill | Programme of Evidence**

As an organisation that has long campaigned for the legalisation of assisted dying in Scotland, we share your committee's commitment to robust and thorough scrutiny of Liam McArthur's Members Bill. Further, we welcome the publication of a provisional timetable for the committee's oral evidence sessions. Given the extensive response to the written evidence call and the competing demands on committee time, we are encouraged by members' resolve to progress scrutiny of the Bill at pace.

However, we wish to highlight what we consider to be a key omission from an otherwise comprehensive programme. While disabled people and people living with long-term conditions have rightly been asked to give evidence to your committee, the same invitation has not been extended to the group most directly impacted by the Bill - namely, adults living with a terminal illness.

It is crucial that Parliament is able to hear from a diverse range of stakeholders when considering the principles and provisions of this legislation. As part of this process, individuals who - if the Bill is passed - would be eligible to apply for an assisted death must be given the opportunity to address the committee and share their perspectives.

We sincerely hope that you will give our request proper consideration. The views and experiences of terminally ill adults must be front-and-centre in the committee's mind while scrutinising this important Bill.

Kind regards,



**Fraser Sutherland  
CEO Humanist Society Scotland**