Draft letter to MP:

Check your MPs contact details and preferred name for correspondence online - <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

Have they expressed their views/voting intentions recently?

Please tailor the letter accordingly, as you wish.

Dear (MP),

As one of your constituents, I am writing to express my concerns about proposals to legalise Assisted Dying (AD), in light of the Private Member’s Bill from Kim Leadbeater MP.

I am a *(add job role)* in Palliative Care, with experience of caring for people living with life-limiting illnesses. I have witnessed the breadth of experiences of people at the end of, and I have heard and recognise the range of opinions about how best to relieve suffering compassionately, and to respect personhood, dignity and choice.

Earlier this year the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee (HSC) published their findings on Assisted Dying/Assisted Suicide after an extensive enquiry with many hours of evidence presented from across the world. Importantly, having sought out and listened to the broad range of perspectives, they did not conclude that the law on assisted dying should be changed, and offered their findings as a resource for future parliamentarians. They did recommend that the Government ensure universal coverage of palliative and end-of-life services, including hospice care at home, and more specialists in palliative care and end-of-life pain relief. They also urged the Government to commit to guaranteeing that support will be provided to any hospices which require funding assistance. As yet, neither of these has been carried out.

The HSC identified common themes from people who wish to change the law and those who do not, which included concerns about the impact of a change in the law on specific groups, the inadequate current provision of palliative and EOL services, and the potential impact on healthcare professionals and healthcare systems.

My concerns about legalising Assisted Dying are:

*1) the risk of devaluing the lives of specific groups of people,*

*2) the impact on people who feel a burden,*

*3) the difficulty in accurately identifying an individual’s prognosis,*

*4) the difficulty of ensuring capacity and consent,*

*5) the difficulty of elder abuse and coercion which doctors can’t easily assess,*

*6) the impact on trust between doctors and patients,*

*7) the impact on palliative care service funding and practice*

Please ensure that the complex and difficult questions that would arise from a potential change in the law are addressed in draft legislation prior to the vote. If it would help, I would be willing to meet in person or virtually (on Zoom or Teams) to discuss further.

My contact details are….(email address, or mobile).

With thanks for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely