ROBBIE MOORE MP

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House of Commons
London
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Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

I am writing to provide an update regarding the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, more commonly known as the Assisted Dying Bill.

As you will be aware, the Bill was defeated in the House of Commons today by 16 votes. This means that it has failed to pass its Second Reading and will not proceed to the next stages of the parliamentary process. In practical terms, MPs have voted against the Bill progressing any further in this Parliament.

I have again voted against the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, having previously voted against the legislation when it was considered by the House of Commons last year. I maintained that position in today's vote on 11 September. I have taken this decision after carefully considering the arguments on all sides of what is an extremely serious and sensitive issue.

Whatever our individual views on this deeply personal and difficult issue, I believe the debate we have had in Parliament is an example of Parliament at its best. I would like to thank colleagues from across the House for the thoughtful, considered and respectful way in which they have contributed to the debate. On an issue of such profound importance, it is right that MPs are able to express strongly held and often deeply personal views, while listening respectfully to those with whom they disagree.

Having been at the bedside of two close family members as they passed away from cancer, I understand how deeply personal and emotive this issue is for both patients and their loved ones. Some of the correspondence I have received from constituents has been profoundly moving, and I have carefully considered the experiences, concerns and opinions that have been shared with me.

Whilst I am not opposed in principle to the legalisation of assisted dying in carefully controlled and transparent circumstances, I believe that any such legislation must contain robust safeguards and protections to prevent coercion, exploitation or undue pressure on vulnerable people.

It was for this reason that I voted against the Bill last year, and why I voted against it again today. During its passage through Parliament, a number of concerns were raised about the practical implementation of the legislation and whether the safeguards would be sufficient. These included concerns around the treatment of individuals with eating disorders and other vulnerable people, as well as whether sufficient protections would be in place to prevent coercion or undue pressure.

I was particularly concerned by the decision to remove the requirement for a High Court judge to review and approve each application for an assisted death. In my view, this represented the removal of an important safeguard. I was also concerned that the decision to delay implementation until at least 2029 raised questions about the extent of the planning and assessment undertaken regarding the Bill's impact on public services.

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