

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

### **Assisted Dying**

I would like to thank everyone who has contacted me about the need for urgent changes to the law on assisted dying. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the drop-in session with families currently experiencing the consequences of the blanket ban on assisted dying, held in Portcullis House.

It is understandable that end of life care and the law concerning assisted dying are extremely complex and emotive issues, and that there are strongly held ethical and moral arguments on both sides. Given the sensitivity and importance of the matter, it is vital that high quality support, guidance and palliative care are available, well-resourced, and that there is clarity in the law surrounding assisted dying. I absolutely understand concerns about misuse, and as such I believe it to be absolutely vital that any new law contains sufficient safeguards within it.

Nevertheless, it is my longstanding opinion that the current law does not meet the needs of the terminally ill, families or the medical profession. I believe that people who are suffering at the end of their lives should be given the choice and the power to decide with dignity when enough is enough. During my time as an MP I have heard moving testimonies from a number of people seeking a change in the law, and I know that many of them raise powerful points which, as an individual, I find difficult to ignore.

Thanks again to everyone who has taken the time to contact me on this issue.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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