

First steps in suicide

SIR – It is exciting that the Commons will be debating doctor-assisted suicide in September (report, June 10) after avoiding this subject for many years. However, the Bill that the Labour MP Rob Marris will introduce will only focus on helping the “terminally ill” (those who are expected to die within six months).

Therefore, this Bill must be regarded as a first step. It is essential that, one day, doctor-assisted suicide becomes an option in Britain for severely disabled adults and elderly individuals who may suffer much more, and for much longer, than those who are expected to die within a few months.

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