

Pressure to die

SIR - Baroness Meacher (Letters, August 10) claims that the "great majority of disabled people support assisted dying for the terminally ill".

Comprehensive polling at the time of Lord Falconer's Bill found that most disabled people were concerned about moves to legalise assisted suicide and believed that the current ban protects vulnerable people from pressure to end their lives.

Assisted suicide is opposed by organisations working closely with and on behalf of disabled people. Moves to change the law are also opposed by disabled colleagues of Lord Rix and Baroness Meacher in the Lords, including Baroness Grey-Thompson, Baroness Masham and Baroness Campbell.

Legalising assisted suicide would be unethical and unnecessary. We urge ministers and parliamentarians to focus on improving access to and quality of palliative care.

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