

CONTACT

# House of Lords: Contact a Peer

There will be a debate, and perhaps a vote, on Lord Falconer's 'Assisted Dying Bill' on **Friday 18 July**. At this stage only Members of the House of Lords (Peers) will be able to speak and vote.

Please write to a peer **before 18 July** to tell them your views - especially if you have direct experience of caring for a dying person, either as a family member or as a health or social care professional.

## Who to write to?

It is important all peers should be made aware of concerns. The campaign group [Care Not Killing Alliance](#) has a special section on its website where you can request the names of three peers at a time to write to.

Please visit: [carenotkilling.org.uk/Bill2014](http://carenotkilling.org.uk/Bill2014)

Alternatively you can choose a Peer from the published lists of peers and their email addresses which can be found online at:

[parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/lords/](http://parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/lords/)

## Tips for writing

- Letters or emails should be polite and brief - Peers receive large mailbags (electronic as well as postal) and a long letter may well not be read.
- Be clear that you are asking them to attend the debate on 18 July and, if there is a vote, to vote against the Bill
- Explain how your opposition to the Bill is informed by your own personal or professional experience
- If you are unsure how to address a Peer you can check: [parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-a-lord/lord-address/](http://parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-a-lord/lord-address/) As a rule of thumb, it is acceptable to address a male Peer as 'Dear Lord X' and a female Peer as 'Dear Lady Y'

The postal address is:

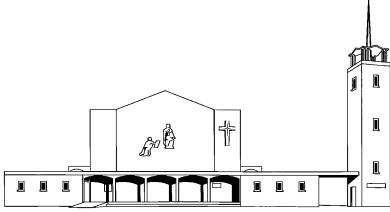
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

Contacting a peer will only take a few minutes of your time but it really can make a difference.

**Please help us to make that difference on this vital issue.**

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ON THE NEXT PAGE IS MY OWN LETTER WHICH I HAVE WRITTEN TO PEERS / ...



# Catholic Church of St Augustine

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HODDESDON, HERTS, EN11 8DS

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E-MAIL: [hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk)

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014

## **Re: Assisted Dying Bill**

I write with reference to the above Bill, currently being considered in the Lords.

I would like to seek assurance that you will counsel against its passage, attend the Second Reading debate on 18<sup>th</sup> July, and vote against the Bill.

To my mind, it is unthinkable that our country would permit, or even encourage, its medical professionals to go utterly against the Hippocratic Oath and administer, or provide, the lethal drugs by which deliberately to kill a patient. It is not appropriate simply to provide 'safeguards' against its being used indiscriminately, for the whole attitude of putting to death patients, even terminally ill ones, is against all principles of compassionate humanity.

Instead, our country's medical services should be enabled to provide excellent palliative care and Hospice facilities, so that a true 'dignity in dying' — not the ugly and immoral spectacle of euthanasia or suicide — can be granted to our sick citizens as the end of their life draws near.

I hope that you agree with me that this Bill should never become Law.

With thanks for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Fr Philip Miller  
Parish Priest