



## U.K. Assisted-suicide Bill Dies in House of Lords

The United Kingdom's controversial assisted-suicide bill has died a well-assisted death in the House of Lords. But supporters in the House of Commons, who blamed its failure on parliamentary maneuvering by Peers, hope to reintroduce it next session and use their own tricks to get it on the books nonetheless.

### Peer Pressure

Introduced by Labor Party MP Kim Leadbeater, the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill would grant adults expected to die within six months the right to medical assistance in killing themselves prematurely.



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The bill passed the Commons last summer, but [stalled in the Lords](#) after Peers mounted “near-unprecedented levels of opposition to” it, reported [Right To Life UK](#). The organization noted that “nearly 80 Peers have so far tabled or signed amendments highlighting concerns with the Bill” and “131 Peers have either spoken against the Bill or signed amendments raising such concerns.” Furthermore:

131 is an exceptionally high number of Peers opposing a Bill, particularly one where debates are reserved for Fridays, when Peers are often not expected to be in Parliament. It is even more remarkable given that the Bill had not completed Committee Stage or reached its Report Stage or Third Reading. In addition to these 131 Peers, it is known that many more Peers are opposed to the Bill. Others have already spoken out in the media or expressed concerns via written parliamentary questions.

The bill received 14 Friday debates without getting out of the committee stage, during which time Peers introduced over 1,200 amendments, “believed to be a record high for a bill introduced by a backbench MP,” according to the [BBC](#).

### Choice Words

Right To Life UK pointed out that among the Peers publicly opposing the bill in its present form were

a former President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and President of the British Medical Association, the former Chief Executive of NHS [National Health Service] England, a leading Professor of palliative medicine, Peers living with disabilities, and legal experts, including a former Attorney General and the former President of the Family Division of the High Court.

One of the most vocal of those disabled Peers was Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, an 11-time Paralympic gold medalist. Grey-Thompson claimed to have received thousands of emails from disabled



Written by [Michael Tennant](#) on April 26, 2026

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people thanking her for sticking up for them. They know that, as in [other places](#) that have legalized assisted suicide, they will be among the first targets for coerced death-by-doctor because they cost the government far more to keep them alive than to kill them.

“In the chamber today, we repeatedly heard about the voices of terminally ill people,” she told the BBC. “Yes, that’s important, but also the voices of those who feel they have no choice.”

Or, as Baroness Thérèse Coffey put it, “I do fear that many peers and many MPs are putting choice for some ahead of concern on coercion for others.”

Lord Charles Falconer, on the other hand, spoke for many of the bill’s proponents when he told his fellow Peers that “the bill had not failed ‘on its merits’ but as a result of ‘procedural wrangling,’” penned the BBC.

For her part, Leadbeater told reporters Friday, “This isn’t what democracy looks like” — “democracy” being the Left’s code word for “getting what we want.” (To be fair, there is at least some truth to it in this case since the Lords consists of appointed, not elected, Peers.)

## Repeat Offense?

The bill’s failure to pass the Lords by the end of the parliamentary session doomed it. As always, however, the Left isn’t giving up.

“This is not over,” Leadbeater [said](#). “The issue is not going to go away just because of an undemocratic filibuster in the Lords. We will keep pushing for a safer, more compassionate law until Parliament reaches a final decision.” (Right To Life UK wrote that “there has been no filibuster,” with the average length of a Peer’s speech on the bill coming in “under 5 minutes.”)

Supporters say they have at least 100 MPs willing to reintroduce the bill in the next session if given the opportunity. [Sky News](#) reported:

They then plan to try and get it through the Commons quickly — potentially even by packing the committee with supporters, on the grounds that MPs have already scrutinized it.

And if they can’t get it through using the ballot, supporters will seek to persuade the government to give it time to protect the authority of the democratically-elected Commons over the unelected Lords.

If it passes the Commons but not the Lords, they might then invoke the rarely used Parliament Act, which declares a bill law if it passes the Commons in two consecutive sessions but is rejected by the Lords. Talk about “procedural wrangling”!

## Commons Sense

It may not be so easy to accomplish, though. The bill lost 32 supporters in the Commons between the initial vote in November 2024 and the final vote in June 2025. A recent [poll](#) found that only 41 percent of MPs who voted for the bill last year are a definite “aye” for the next (hypothetical) vote, while 45 percent of “no” voters say they’d stand firm. Half of MPs have concerns over the bill’s safeguards and potential for abuse, and 61 percent acknowledge the Lords’ prerogative to kill it.

“The assisted suicide bill is now dead in this parliamentary session,” exulted Right To Life UK CEO Alisdair Hungerford-Morgan, “and mortally wounded beyond.”



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