

Bill 2462 on support for patients and the end of life:

discarding the prerequisites of a vital prognosis in the short and medium term is a high-risk choice^[1]

Following the French Academy of Medicine's statement on 'Promoting a dignified and peaceful end of life' [i] and the government's draft bill on 'aid in dying', the National Assembly's Special Committee has amended the third condition for access to 'aid in dying' by replacing the reference to a serious and incurable situation' by 'a short- or medium-term life-threatening prognosis' completed by 'in an advanced or terminal stage'.

The Academy of Medicine believes that the term 'advanced stage' is inappropriate and dangerous. Once the vital prognosis has been cleared, there is a risk that this term will include people suffering from an illness that may be incurable, but with which it is possible to live for a long time. This is the case, for example, with patients suffering from severe neurodegenerative diseases, cancer patients with metastases, people with severe disabilities or those suffering from a chronic disease with complications.

In addition, the Academy of Medicine warns about the Committee's proposal to make it an offense of obstructing death and the risk of removing the border between a suicide and an aid in dying.

[i] Opinion 23-17. Promoting a dignified and peaceful end of life: responding to inhuman suffering and protecting the most vulnerable people Session of June 27, 2023

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