

🌸 外刊阅读第 3 篇

An assisted-dying bill is again introduced to Westminster

The Economist

Oct 16, 2024

难度指数：★★★★☆☆

🌸 原文阅读

P1: ON OCTOBER 16TH, on a grey morning in Westminster, an army of campaigners with placards gathered in Parliament Square. "Kim Leadbeater MP: Thank you for giving us hope," read one sign. Later that day, Ms Leadbeater, a Labour MP, introduced a bill in the House of Commons to allow assisted dying for the terminally ill in England and Wales.

P2: Ms Leadbeater is not the first politician to propose changing the law. The first was Lord Ponsonby, whose bill on voluntary euthanasia in 1936 was supported by H.G. Wells. That bill was defeated after his fellow peers pronounced themselves unconvinced by the promise of safeguards and worried that the choice could be extended to those of unsound mind. Many were bound by their religious beliefs to oppose it. In the past two decades four attempts to introduce similar legislation have all run into the same hurdles. Advocates, *The Economist* among them, hope that this time will be different.

P3: It helps that the affable Ms Leadbeater is an MP, not a peer. Private members' bills—those not introduced by government ministers—have more chance of passing if they are tabled in the House of Commons rather than the House of Lords. That is why Lord Falconer, a peer who proposed his own assisted-dying bill in the Lords in July, is withdrawing it in favour of Ms Leadbeater's newer proposal.

P4: Parliament also looks very different from the last time an assisted-dying bill was debated by MPs—and defeated by 330 votes to 118—in 2015. A new intake of (mostly Labour) MPs appear more receptive to the idea, and crucially, the prime minister, Sir Keir Starmer, is a supporter of it. Sir Keir has promised a free vote on the matter; his biggest contribution will be to allow time for a proper debate.

P5: The actual content of the legislation is still being drafted and will not be debated by MPs until November 29th. But Ms Leadbeater has already told *The Guardian* that her bill would have "strict, stringent criteria". She has suggested that,

like Lord Falconer's proposal, which would have limited assisted dying to those with only six months to live, two doctors and a judge would have to sign off on a terminally ill person's request to die.

✿ 思考题

According to the passage, what is the MAIN reason Lord Falconer withdrew his assisted-dying bill?

- A. His proposal lacked support from religious groups
- B. The House of Lords has stricter voting procedures
- C. Private members' bills are more likely to pass in the Commons
- D. The Prime Minister demanded legislative prioritization



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✿ 外刊笔记

P1: ON OCTOBER 16TH, on a grey morning in Westminster, **an army of campaigners** with **placards** **gathered** in Parliament Square. "Kim Leadbeater **MP**: Thank you for giving us hope," read one **sign**. Later that day, Ms Leadbeater, a Labour MP, introduced a bill in the House of Commons to allow assisted dying for the **terminally** ill in England and Wales.

10 月 16 日，在伦敦威斯敏斯特一个灰蒙蒙的早晨，一群举着标语牌的请愿者大军聚集在议会广场。其中一块标语牌上写着：“金·利德贝特议员：感谢你给予我们希望”。当天早些时候，这位工党议员在下议院提出了一项法案，旨在允许英格兰和威尔士的晚期绝症患者实施安乐死。

P2: Ms Leadbeater is not the first **politician** to propose changing the law. The first was Lord Ponsonby, whose **bill** on **voluntary euthanasia** in 1936 was supported by H.G. Wells. That bill was **defeated** after his fellow peers pronounced themselves **unconvinced** by the promise of **safeguards** and worried that the choice could be extended to those of **unsound mind**. Many were bound by their **religious** beliefs to oppose it. In the past two decades four **attempts** to introduce

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【固】**an army of** 一支军队
(通常用来形容数量众多的人); 一大群

campaigner n. 竞选者; 从军者; 活动推动者

placard ①n. 海报, 标语牌; 招贴 ②vt. 张贴

gather vt.&vi. 聚集, 召集; 收集, 采集

MP (Member of Parliament) 议员; 下议院议员

sign n. 指示牌, 标志; 迹象, 征兆

terminally adv. (疾病) 致命地, 不治地

----- 2 -----

politician n. 从政者, 政治家; 政客

bill n. 账单; 议案, 法案

voluntary adj. 自愿的, 自发的, 主动的; 志愿的

euthanasia n. 安乐死

defeat ①v. 击败, 战胜; 困惑; 使失败; 反对 ②n. 失败

similar legislation have all run into the same **hurdles**. Advocates, *The Economist* among them, hope that this time will be different.

利德比特女士并非首位提议修改法律的**政客**。早在 1936 年，庞森比勋爵就提出过**自愿安乐死法案**，并得到（科幻作家）H.G.威尔斯支持。该法案因同僚们表示对**保障措施**承诺**存疑**、担忧选择权可能扩展至精神**不健全**群体而遭**否决**，许多人因**宗教信仰**坚持反对。在过去二十年里，四次试图引入类似立法的**努力**都遭遇了同样的**障碍**。但包括《经济学人》在内的倡导者们希望这一次情况会有所不同。

P3: It helps that the **affable** Ms Leadbeater is an MP, not a **peer**. Private members' bills—those not introduced by government ministers — have more chance of passing if they are **tabled** in the **House of Commons** rather than the **House of Lords**. That is why Lord Falconer, a peer who proposed his own assisted-dying bill in the Lords in July, is **withdrawing** it in favour of Ms Leadbeater's newer **proposal**.

利德比特女士**有亲和力**且身为下议院议员而非**上议院议员**，这一点很有帮助。**普通议员**法案——即非内阁大臣提交的法案——如果**提交**至**下议院**而非**上议院**，通过几率更高。正因如此，福尔克纳勋爵（身为上议院议员，其自己提出的协助死亡法案于 7 月提交至上议院）决定**撤回**己方提案，转而支持利德比特的新**提案**。

unconvinced adj.不信服的；怀疑的

safeguard ①n.保障条款，保护措施 ②v.保护

unsound adj.不健全的；不健康的

religious adj.宗教的，与宗教相关的；虔诚的

attempt ①v.努力，尝试 ②n.试图

hurdle ①n.障碍，难关；栏架，跨栏 ②v.（奔跑中）跳越（某物）

----- 3 -----

affable adj.和蔼可亲的；友善的

peer ①n.身份（或地位）相同的人；同龄人；贵族成员；上议院议员 ②v.仔细看；端详

【固】**private member**（非内阁成员的）普通议员

table ①n.桌子，台子；一桌人；表，一览表 ②v.（正式）提出，把…列入议事日程

【固】**House of Commons**（英国或加拿大议会中的）下议院

【固】**House of Lords**（英国议会中的）上议院，贵族院

withdraw v.提（款）；取（钱）；收回，撤回，撤销；（使）退出

proposal n.提议，建议；提案；（计划、建议等的）提出；求婚

P4: Parliament also looks very different from the last time an assisted-dying bill was **debated** by MPs — and defeated by 330 votes to 118 — in 2015. A new **intake** of (mostly **Labour**) MPs appear more **receptive** to the idea, and **crucially**, the prime minister, Sir Keir Starmer, is a supporter of it. Sir Keir has promised a free vote on the matter; his biggest **contribution** will be to allow time for a **proper** debate.

议会如今的面貌与 2015 年上一次由议员们**辩论**安乐死法案（并以 330 票对 118 票**被否决**）时大不相同。新**纳入**的议员中大部分是**工党**成员，他们似乎对这一理念更**乐于接受**，且**至关重要**的是，首相基尔·斯塔默爵士是该法案的支持者。基尔爵士已承诺将在该议题上进行自由投票；他最重要的**贡献**将是确保有**足够**的时间进行充分的辩论。

P5: The actual content of the legislation is still being drafted and will not be debated by MPs until November 29th. But Ms Leadbeater has already told *The Guardian* that her bill would have “strict, **stringent criteria**”. She has suggested that, like Lord Falconer's proposal, which would have limited assisted dying to those with only six months to live, two doctors and a judge would have to **sign off on** a terminally ill person's request to die.

立法的实际内容仍在起草中，直到 11 月 29 日才会由议员们进行辩论。但利德比特女士已经告诉《**卫报**》，她的（提交的）法案将有“非常严格、**严苛的标准**”。她提议，就像福尔克纳勋爵的提案一样，该提案曾将安乐死限定于仅剩六个月生命的患者，绝

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debate ①n.讨论，辩论 ②v.反复思考，斟酌；讨论，辩论

intake n.（食物、饮料、空气等的）摄取量，吸入量；（一定时期内）纳入的人数；吸收；吸入

Labour n.（英国）工党

receptive adj.（对观点、建议等）愿意倾听的，乐于接受的；能容纳的，可以接受的

crucially adv.关键地；至关重要地

contribution n.贡献，促成作用；捐款，捐助；（保险金、养老金等的）定期缴款；稿件，投稿

proper adj.真正的；实际上的；正确的；专有的；完全的，彻底的

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【固】*The Guardian* n.卫报，是一份英国全国性日报。它成立于 1821 年，1959 年前它被称为曼彻斯特卫报。

stringent adj.（法律、规定或条件）严格的；（财政状况）紧缩的，银根紧的

criteria n.（评判或做决定的）标准，准则，尺度（**criterion** 的复数）

【固】**sign off on** 正式批准某事：指在某事进行之前，经过正式的批准

症患者的死亡请求必须由两名医生和一名法官**签字批准**。

✿ 长难句分析

1. **That bill was defeated** after his fellow peers pronounced themselves unconvinced by the promise of safeguards and worried that the choice could be extended to those of unsound mind.

(1) 主干：That bill was defeated (主+谓+宾) that 在此处为指示代词

(2) 修饰：

- and 并列的两个时间状从：after his fellow peers pronounced themselves unconvinced by the promise of safeguards and worried...
- 时间状从中嵌套宾语从句：that the choice could be extended to those of unsound mind

(3) 译文：

该法案因同僚们表示对保障措施承诺存疑、担忧选择权可能扩展至精神不健全群体而遭否决。

2. **Private members' bills** — those not introduced by government ministers — **have more chance** of passing if they are tabled in the House of Commons rather than the House of Lords.

(1) 主句：Private members' bills... have more chance... (主+谓+宾)

(2) 修饰：

- 破折号分隔，插入语解释 Private members' bills: those not introduced by government ministers
- 过去分词短语作后置定语：not introduced by government ministers
- 介词短语作后置定语修饰 the rise: of passing
- if 引导的条件状语从句：if they are tabled in the House of Commons rather than the House
- 介词短语作地点状语：in the House of Commons rather than the House
- 比较结构 rather than 连接两个并列地点，表达对比：House of Commons rather than the House

(3) 译文

普通议员法案——即非内阁大臣提交的法案——如果提交至下议院而非上议院，通过几率更高。

3. She has suggested that, like Lord Falconer's proposal, which would have limited assisted dying to those with only six months to live, two doctors and a judge would have to sign off on a terminally ill person's request to die.

(1) 主干：She has suggested that, (主+谓+宾从)

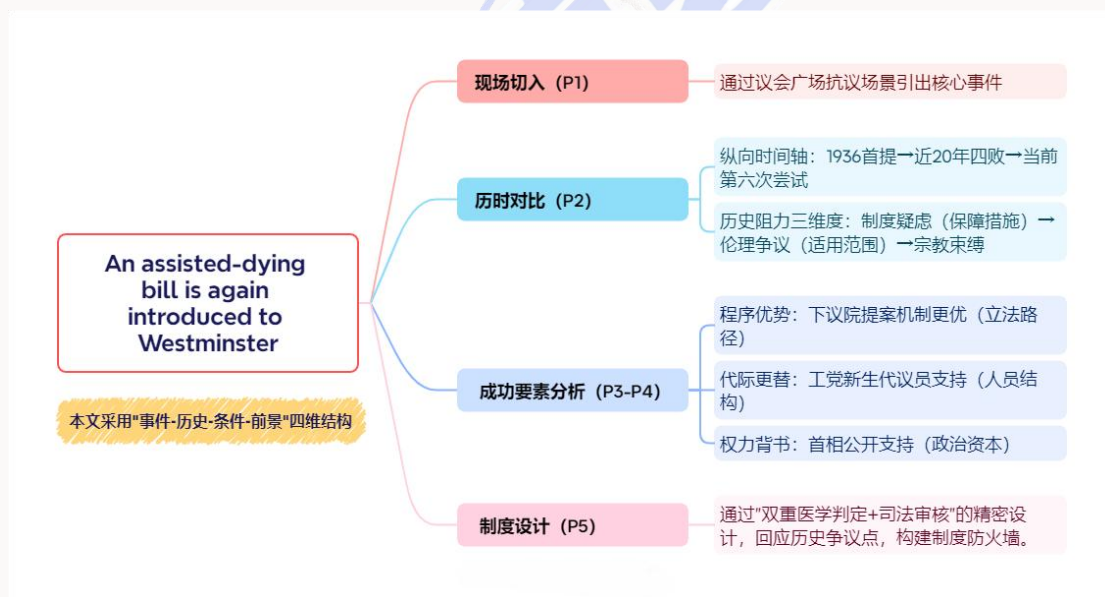
(2) 修饰：

- 插入语：like Lord Falconer's proposal,
- 非限制性定语从句，修饰限定 proposal: which would have limited assisted dying to those with only six months to live, (其中 would have limited 是对过去假设的虚拟语气，暗示 Lord Falconer 的提案并未实际实施)
- that 引导宾语从句：two doctors and a judge would have to sign off on a terminally ill person's request to die. (to die 不定式做后置定语，修饰 request)

(3) 译文：

她提议，就像福尔克纳勋爵的提案一样，该提案曾将安乐死限定于仅剩六个月生命的患者，绝症患者的死亡请求必须由两名医生和一名法官签字批准。

✿ 行文思路



✿ 类似真题速览

真题	相似点
英语一 2013 年 T4	联邦&亚利桑那州就移民法案的争议 【话题类似】
2002 年 T4	医生援助自杀和临终关怀 【话题类似】
英语二 2010 年 T4	陪审团体系 【体裁和行文思路类似】

✿ 思考题解析

According to the passage, what is the MAIN reason Lord Falconer withdrew his assisted-dying bill?

- A. His proposal lacked support from religious groups
- B. The House of Lords has stricter voting procedures
- C. Private members' bills are more likely to pass in the Commons**
- D. The Prime Minister demanded legislative prioritization

解析：第三段明确指出"私人法案在下议院通过率更高"，这解释了福尔克纳勋爵撤回上议院提案转而支持下议院提案的根本原因。选项 C 准确对应原文"have more chance of passing if tabled in the Commons"。干扰项中，A 涉及历史阻碍因素但非本题焦点，B 与原文立法程序描述相反，D 属无中生有。

