



**David Anderson**  
Member of Parliament  
Cypress Hills—Grasslands



**Bill C-418: The Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act**

**CURRENTLY:**

- ◇ Two years ago, taking a patient's life was culpable homicide.
- ◇ Although the law now permits physician assisted suicide, many doctors' consciences will not.
- ◇ The Supreme Court of Canada has explicitly said that the legalization of euthanasia did not entail a duty of physicians to provide it.
- ◇ Regional associations have introduced regulations compelling conscientiously objecting physicians to provide effective referrals for physician assisted suicide, contravening this assurance. This happens without penalty.

**WHAT IS C-418?**

- ◇ Bill C-418 amends the Criminal Code to make it a offence to intimidate a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for compelling them to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of physician assisted suicide.
- ◇ Bill C-418 makes it an offence to dismiss from employment or to refuse to employ a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for the reason only that they refuse to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of physician assisted suicide.

**WHY C-418?**

- ◇ I believe it's time to stand up for doctors and health care providers who aren't willing to leave their core ethics behind when they're at a patient's bedside.
- ◇ The protection of conscience rights for medical professionals is part of protecting the fundamental freedom of conscience and religion guaranteed to all Canadians in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

**HAVE YOUR SAY:**

I encourage you to contact the Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice, to make him aware of Bill C-418 and to voice your support. Mail the attached letter, postage-free, back to my office. My staff will forward your response to the Minister.



Dear Minister Lametti;

I would like to draw your attention to Private Members Bill C-418, the *Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act*, because I believe it deserves your consideration and support.

Bill C-418 amends the Criminal Code to make it an offence to intimidate a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for compelling them to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying. it also makes it an offence to dismiss from employment or to refuse to employ a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for the reason only that they refuse to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying.

I believe it's time to stand up for doctors and health care providers who aren't willing to leave their core ethics behind when they're at a patient's bedside. The protection of conscience rights for medical professionals is part of protecting the fundamental freedom of conscience and religion guaranteed to all Canadians in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

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