

Dear _____, MP

I am writing this letter in support of Private Members Bill C-418: The Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act.

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.

However, regional associations have introduced regulations compelling conscientiously objecting physicians to provide effective referrals or transfers for physician assisted suicide, contravening this assurance. This happens, without any penalty.

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*.

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 am contacting you as my Member of Parliament, to ask you to represent my interests by supporting this Bill.

Sincerely,