

Sample Letter to Members of Parliament

This is a sample letter. If you want to use the information to write your own letter please feel free to do so. Letters received by MP's carry a lot of weight. Make sure you identify that you are a constituent of the MP to whom you are writing. To access the name of your MP check out our website under Legislation. If you want to know the resolutions around this issue they are posted under Resolutions on our website.

Remember when you send it to the House of Commons you do not need a stamp

Dear Member of Parliament (please insert your MP's name)

As a member of the Alberta Mackenzie Catholic Women's League in Alberta (approximately 9,000 members strong) we have and continue to support sanctity of life from birth to natural death.

In June 2014 Physician-assisted suicide was legalized in the Province of Quebec, and in June 2016 became legal in the entire country.

In October 2020, Bill C-7: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying) was reintroduced after the previous Bill died when Parliament was prorogued in August 2020. This Bill would allow assisted death for Canadians who are not dying, by removing the requirement that a person's death must be "reasonably foreseeable" in order to be eligible for assisted suicide/euthanasia. The bill establishes two streams of eligibility: those whose natural death is foreseeable, and those whose natural death is not foreseeable. The changes that are being made to Bill C-7, will make it easier to access medical assistance in dying, and may encourage more people to seek this avenue for ending their lives.

It is shocking that our federal government is proposing to remove almost all the safeguards that were previously put in place to protect the vulnerable under medical assistance in dying.

In 2019, there were 5,444 deaths by medical assistance in dying and an additional 263 patients that withdrew their requests. Without safeguards in place the process from request to actual death is expedited without reflection time or opportunity to have a change of mind.

Our Health Care system is failing to provide for patients facing their end of life. Health Care has become a business instead of a service for patients. Care for the dying is costly, with hospice and palliative care costs constantly on the rise. In many areas across Alberta and the Northwest Territories there are no facilities for the dying. In some cases, MAiD is being offered as an alternative. The fact is that our medical system is not able to adequately serve our patients, therefore, opening the door to expanding MAiD to all chronically ill, disabled people and those with mental health issues. This bill will throw real options for care out the window for those who need them.

We believe that life is sacred, and it's received from God and it's given back to God at the time that He chooses, not when we choose. Our society needs to talk freely with our children and families about death and suffering, as it is part of life. Every person has a role to play not just the healthy and physically fit. From the time we are conceived in our mother's wombs until our natural death we are the Lord's.

We understand that there may be suffering and pain in the dying process; however medical assistance in dying is not the answer to that pain. The commandment “thou shalt not kill” tells us that I cannot kill myself or anyone else as reflected in the criminal code prior to June 2016.

Our belief system is in direct opposition to what is being proposed in this Bill and our right to freedom of religion is being threatened as was shown with the need for a law to protect the conscience right of healthcare professionals who see euthanasia as murder as well as a need for a law to protect palliative care workers and facilities from providing euthanasia services when it goes against their consciences.

We encourage you to take into consideration our concerns, slow down the amendments, work at protecting the most vulnerable and work for the **common good** of all Canadians.

I look forward to your response.

Regards

Your name

SAMPLE