**Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide**

**Letter**

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, 284 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8 (email with scanned attachment - mcu@justice.gc.ca) and the Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health,
70 Colombine Driveway, Tunney's Pasture, Postal Location: 0906C, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9, Fax: 613-952-1154 (email with scanned attachment - Hon.Jane.Philpott@Canada.ca)

Copy to local member(s) of Parliament

Dear Ministers,

I am aware that the Supreme Court of Canada has struck down the provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada prohibiting euthanasia and physician assistance to suicide and has given the Government of Canada until June 2016 to pass legislation consistent with the Supreme Court decision.

I am also aware that a Parliamentary Joint Committee has issued a report, *Medical Assistance in Dying: A Patient-Centred Approach*, that contains recommendations for legislation that go far beyond the requirements of the Supreme Court decision and pose great danger to many Canadians.

I am greatly concerned that suicide, especially but not only among young people, has reached tragic proportions in Canada, despite the best efforts of suicide prevention organizations;

Therefore, I urge you to ensure that in developing its legislation on euthanasia and assisted suicide the Government of Canada include the following safeguards:

1. Eligibility for medically assisted dying should be limited to individuals who meet the criteria specified by the Supreme Court, namely: “a competent adult who (1) clearly consents to the termination of life; and (2) has a grievous and irremediable medical condition (including an illness, disease or disability) that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual in the circumstances of his or her condition.”
2. Given the seriousness and finality of requests for assistance in dying, a robust system for determining competency and ensuring that such requests are not influenced by mental illness, impulse, coercion or lack of access to other services must be a requirement of the legislation.
3. All health care and medical providers are ultimately guided by their own consciences, and the law must not force any of them to act contrary to their conscience. No health care provider or health care institution should be compelled to participate in medically assisted dying.
4. No health care provider or health care institution should be required to make an ‘effective’ referral for euthanasia or assisted suicide. Instead, there should be a widely publicized roster of providers and institutions that are qualified and willing to participate so that individuals seeking the service do not need a referral.
5. Only health care providers with the necessary qualifications for implementing assisted death, as determined by provincial/territorial professional regulatory bodies, should be exempt from sections 14 and 241(b) of the Criminal Code that prohibit euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Address