



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

PETITION: Requesting the federal government to cease the expansion of medical assistance in dying (MAiD), including advanced requests.

To: Member of Parliament _____
[insert name]

We, the undersigned, request the rejection of any legislative recommendations that would permit the expansion of MAiD, including advanced requests following a diagnosis of a serious and incurable medical condition, disease or disorder leading to incapacity, as outlined in Recommendation 21 of the 2023 report by the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying.

Whereas,

- Persons who have made an advanced request for MAiD might no longer be able to confirm their wishes at the time of death. If their wishes change, they may not be able to express them.
- Advanced requests rely on written documents describing a person's future condition and suffering. Doctors and family members might interpret the request differently from what the patient would have wanted.
- There is concern that advanced requests could lead to coercion or undue pressure, especially for older adults or those with disabilities, to request MAiD to avoid burdening families or the healthcare system.
- There are ethical concerns among some healthcare professionals that carrying out MAiD based on an old request without current confirmation could be seen as involuntary. There is a risk that death could be seen as a "benefit" contrary to what a patient might have desired.
- Predicting suffering in situations such as dementia risks treating cognitively impaired individuals as objects of past instructions rather than persons who merit a fresh assessment of their present well-being. Some may reach the point they previously feared but still enjoy life.
- Canada should increase funding for palliative and hospice care and suicide prevention.
- Offering MAiD rather than providing support services devalues those living with chronic conditions.

We ask all members of parliament not to support legislation that expands MAiD or aligns with the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying Recommendation 21. Instead, we suggest an increased federal government focus on enhancing palliative and hospice care.

Please sign this petition to support ceasing the expansion of medical assistance in dying, including advanced requests.

Signature	Province	Postal Code

