



*Name of Parish Council (Location) of*  
**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

*Date*

*Name of Member of Parliament*

Member of Parliament

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

**Re: Expansion of medical assistance in dying (MAiD), including advanced requests.**

Dear Mr./Ms. *Name of member of parliament*,

As local constituents, we urge the rejection of any proposed legislative changes that would include the expansion of MAiD, especially the inclusion of advanced requests for people 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.

There are several ethical, legal and practical challenges with Recommendation 21:

- Persons who have made an advanced request for MAiD might no longer be able to confirm their wishes at the time of death, especially if they have changed.
- 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 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 acting on an old request for MAiD 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 euthanasia rather than providing support services devalues those living with chronic conditions.

I urge you not to support any legislation related to the expansion of MAiD, especially Recommendation 21 and the inclusion of advanced requests and instead support an increased government focus on advancing compassionate, life-affirming palliative and hospice care.

Sincerely,

The undersigned members of *Council Name (Location)* of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

