The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario,

80 College Street,

TORONTO ON M5G 2E2

February 17, 2015

Dear Members of the Consultations Committee:

Subject: Draft Policy “Professional Obligations and Human Rights”.

It is with great concern that I read that your college may mandate that its members must assist patients to commit suicide, and, if in disagreement with this, the physician must provide a referral to someone who will do this. If I understand this correctly, doctors who have been trained to save lives, cure illness and provide comfort, are now being asked to kill the very patients they have spent their lives saving. This is a betrayal of the profession.

We pride ourselves on being a compassionate society which upholds basic freedoms and rights. The doctors who refuse to euthanize their patients have a Canadian Charter right to freedom of conscience and religion. Providing a referral to someone else to do the euthanizing is just as obscene as doing the killing first hand.

I am not forgetting the patients who are suffering. Having volunteered in palliative care and other critical care hospital areas for some time now, I have seen how many patients suffer and what a difference the compassionate care of staff and visitors make to the degree of suffering. As well, in the dying process, I am well aware that there are medications to ease and even eradicate the stress and suffering which may accompany some patients as they actively die. Our focus needs to be on more access to palliative and hospice care.

Dear fellow citizens, I ask you to please reconsider your position in this pivotal situation. Our society trusts you and counts on you to protect lives.