The College Council of the
Ontario College of Physicians & Surgeons
80 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2E2

January 12, 2015

Re: external consultation on new draft policy – don’t force doctors to kill.

Dear Council,

Last years consultation gave widespread support among the public and the medical profession for doctor’s rights to conscientious objection, but this doesn’t seem to be reflected in the new proposed draft? We wonder why?

Since the College Council of the OCPS is seeking once more input on a new draft policy that would force doctors to do abortions, and prescribe abortion causing drugs, even if it violated their moral or religious beliefs, we object to this draft policy. It suppresses freedom of conscience and is an affront to the best traditions of liberal democracy.

If a doctor is morally opposed to killing, such as abortion or euthanasia, he/she would likely not want to refer patients to those who have no moral qualms with it either. Didn’t the Hippocratic oath hold doctors to that moral principal ‘do not kill and do no harm’ for thousands of years for a reason?

Although the draft doesn’t mention euthanasia and doctor assisted suicide, we know it is on the political agenda at both the federal and provincial levels. The loss of conscientious rights for doctors would force them to violate their moral and religious convictions even further.

We, the undersigned, urge you to please keep conscientious rights for doctors in place.

Looking forward to your response,

Sincerely,