College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

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To Whom it may concern,

Thank you for being open to consultation with the public. I appreciate that the college accepts the existing Charter rights of freedom of religion and conscience. I urge them to maintain that moral stance.

Moral stances are based on conscience and reason, that can be explained by observation and judgement of good done or evil avoided. Everyone has a moral stance, which may or may not be reinforced by religious faith. Beliefs and moral stance are not the same. Moral stance deserves protection. Freedom of religion and conscience rights are protected in other documents such as United Nations: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards another in a spirit of brotherhood."

Both patients' and physicians' rights need to be respected. Physicians should not be compelled to act against their conscience, either to perform or to refer a patient for a procedure that the physician's conscience says is wrong.