College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

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Attention: Policy Department

Feb. 11/15

As a concerned citizen of Canada, a resident of Ontario, and a permanent Resident of British Columbia, I would like to thank the CPSC for being open to public consultation regarding the proposed revisions to the Document on Professional Obligations and Human Rights. I am writing this letter to urge the CPSC to defend two fundamental rights: the rights of the patients and health-care providers alike.

I am deeply concerned that the physician’s "duty to accommodate" means that a physician must compromise on his conscience in order to carry out his/her duty. The proposed new draft of the Document fails to recognize that, in certain circumstances, the physician may have to take a moral stance, based on rational and evidence-based facts, that goes against the wishes or intents of the patient. A physician refusing to provide or refer certain procedures is not discriminating against a patient.

Compelling individuals to act against their absolute conscience decisions violates the Charter and the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights as outlined in Article 1, which states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

I also reiterate that the Draft does not do this.