February 19, 2015

The College Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
80 College St.
Toronto, ON M5G 2E2

Re: “Effective Referral”

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) STATES IN A PROPOSED NEW DRAFT DOCUMENT: “Where physicians are unwilling to provide certain elements of care due to their moral or religious beliefs, an effective referral to another health care provider must be provided to the patients.”

I am writing to reject the proposed “effective referral” mandate for doctors. Catholic physicians believe that a mandate for an “effective referral” is a violation of a physician’s rights as it compels the physician to violate his or her own conscience by being a participant in the very act, the procedure to which he or she objects in the first place. A doctor’s charter rights of freedom of conscience and religion must be respected.