Feb. 11, 2015

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
80 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2E2

To the Members of the Consultation Committee:

Subject: Draft Policy "Professional Obligations and Human Rights"

As a resident of Ontario I am very concerned about the draft policy which would force doctors with conscience objections to acts such as assisted suicide and euthanasia to refer patients to other physicians who do not object to such acts. The so-called "effective referral" mandate violates doctors’ freedom of conscience and religion guaranteed by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

When I am at the end of my life—or depressed or suffering but not terminally ill, I do not want to be cared for by a physician whose idea of care includes killing me. Depriving doctors of freedom of conscience could have the effect of driving from the profession those who cannot for conscience reasons offer euthanasia or assisted suicide, leaving only those who are willing to kill.

I’m aware that many Ontarians and many Ontario doctors are in favour of euthanasia and/or assisted suicide. I ask that you respect the views of those of us who are not in favour of these acts. Please let Ontario doctors practice medicine in accordance with their own consciences, and revise the draft policy accordingly.