

# *DISABILITY FILIBUSTER*

*LE FILIBUSTER DU HANDICAP*



November 20, 2022

To the Ontario Government and CPSO Policy Department:

We are a national grassroots initiative formed in opposition to Bill C7 and the expansion of MAiD. We created a platform for a diversity of disabled people with a diversity of disabilities to share their thoughts and concerns about the expansion of MAiD.

It is difficult to put into words the grief, fear and anger that the over 80 hours of video footage documents. Disabled people feel left behind and more so, singled out and targeted by this policy which directly affects disabled people and only disabled people.

People spoke of being afraid to seek medical help because they were worried about their physician raising the possibility of MAiD. Some even went so far as to say they will be avoiding medical care. Those who struggle or have struggled with suicidal ideation or depression voiced concerns about how the raising of it with them would lead to set-backs and many worried about seeking medical care for a physical emergency if they were at a low point, something that they knew to be temporary but worried they would agree to MAiD in that state.

We have heard repeatedly from people that they would like to know some way that they might be able to ensure that MAiD is not raised with them at all.

For this reason we are writing to express our concern about the CPSO protocols. In particular, making it a duty for physicians to inform patients of all treatment options for which they are potentially eligible. Would this mean that some disabled people would have MAiD raised every time they sought treatment for anything?

Why has so little thought or discussion taken place about the psychological impact and harm that can occur when you, as a disabled patient, go in seeking help to live and are instead offered death by lethal injection by your physician.

Many physicians currently are in the practice of hanging signs letting patients know they will not prescribe pain and other medications even if needed. How is that something that a physician can opt out of but advising patients to seek death is not?

Having a list of physicians available who have agreed not to raise MAiD, but who would, of course provide information if it was requested by a patient, might allow some disabled people who are currently avoiding or anxious about seeking medical care, to feel more safe in doing so.

We would appreciate the opportunity to share additional feedback and concerns with you and we ask you to not enact these protocols as written and to instead work with groups like ours to develop measures that will prevent the traumatizing and potential influencing of disabled people to seek death who wish to live.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

disabilityfilibuster@gmail.com