



Federation of
Medical Regulatory
Authorities of Canada

Fédération des
ordres des médecins
du Canada

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Mr. Anthony Housefather, M.P.
Chair
Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Subject: Bill C-14, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)*.

Dear Mr. Housefather,

The Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) respectfully requests the opportunity to make a brief submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights pertaining to Bill C-14, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)*. Medical Assistance in Dying is *de facto* a medical act, and thus will come under the regulation of FMRAC's members who are a key stakeholder group on this important issue.

FMRAC

FMRAC is the national organization representing the 13 provincial and medical regulatory authorities across Canada.

Medical regulatory authorities

FMRAC's members serve the public by regulating physicians in their respective jurisdictions, in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations. They license qualified and competent physicians to practise medicine. They investigate and resolve physician-related complaints on behalf of the public. They monitor and maintain standards of practice of physicians, as well as develop professional standards and guidelines to support high standards of medical practice and ethical conduct.

Access to Medical Assistance in Dying

FMRAC's members regulate medical acts on behalf of patients. Importantly, we believe we can speak on behalf of the medical and professional interest.

Bill C-14 outlines an approach to medical assistance in dying that our members will regulate. They already regulate professional duties touched on in Bill C-14, specifically duty of care, duty not to abandon, informed consent and others.

FMRAC particularly feels positioned to speak on behalf of patients to the question of access. It will be our members who will regulate the balance sought by Bill C-14 between a patient's right of access and a physician's freedom of conscience.

We remain available to discuss these and other issues with you and the other members of the Standing Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Douglas A. (Gus) Grant, MD
President

Copy: The Honourable Jane Philpott, MP
The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, MP
Mr. Michael MacPherson, Clerk of the Committee
Dr. Jesse Kancir, Policy Advisor, Health Canada
Ms. Jessica Prince, Senior Policy Advisor, Justice Canada