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January 28, 2016

Ms Cynara Corbin,  
Joint Clerk of the Committee on Physician Assisted Death,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Ms Corbin,

The Congress of Union Retirees of Canada represents half a million retired union members and their spouses through our affiliated organizations. At our Convention in 2011, we adopted a resolution in favour of death with dignity for people who were terminally ill. In recognition of the Supreme Court ruling, our Convention held in June 2015 adopted, a resolution in which additional details were elaborated. That resolution in both English and French is attached.

Some organizations have put the emphasis on palliative care as an alternative to physician assisted dying. CURC believes we need both good palliative care and the right to die with dignity. The last Parliament adopted a motion with one dissenting that called on the government to work with the provinces and territories to ensure access to "high-quality, home-based and hospice palliative care," provide more support to caregivers, and encourage Canadians to "discuss and plan for end-of-life care." It is our hope that increased federal funding will enable this care to be more widely available.

Please accept this as our brief to the Committee whose report we would appreciate receiving.

Yours truly,

Pat Kerwin  
President

## **2015 CURC Convention adopted**

English version:

Whereas the Supreme Court ruling on physician-assisted death is a victory for compassion and humanity,

Therefore Be It Resolved That CURC advocate for federal legislation supportive of the Supreme Court's ruling on physician-assisted death, including safeguards against abuse, that would allow for physician-assisted death for a competent adult person who [1] clearly consents to the termination of life and [2] has a grievous and irremediable medical condition [including an illness, disease or disability] that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual in the circumstances of his or her condition; and

Therefore Be It Further Resolved That children under the age of eighteen will not be deemed appropriate to receive physician-assisted death; and

Therefore Be It Further Resolved That only willing physicians will be permitted to offer physician-assisted dying to appropriate competent adult patients who have made the choice to die without pressure from others.

Version française

ATTENDU que le jugement de la Cour suprême sur l'aide médicale à la mort constitue une victoire pour la compassion et l'humanité;

IL EST RÉSOLU que l'ASRC revendique l'adoption d'une loi fédérale cadrant avec le jugement de la Cour suprême sur l'aide médicale à la mort et prévoyant une protection contre l'abus qui permettrait l'aide médicale à la mort d'une personne adulte capable qui 1) consent clairement à mettre fin à sa vie et 2) est affectée de problèmes de santé graves et irrémédiables (y compris une affection, une maladie ou un handicap) lui causant des souffrances persistantes qui lui sont intolérables au regard de sa condition;

IL EST DE PLUS RÉSOLU que les enfants de moins de huit ans ne seront pas jugés admissibles à l'aide médicale à la mort;

IL EST DE PLUS RÉSOLU que seuls les médecins disposés à participer à l'aide médicale à la mort pourront offrir cette aide aux patientes ou patients adultes capables qui ont fait le choix de mourir sans subir de pressions d'autres personnes.