

To the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights,

RE: Bill C-7

I find it utterly devastating that this Government is seeking to expand the accessibility of euthanasia and assisted suicide (euphemistically called MAiD). In no way do I see this as health care, but rather institutionalized murder.

Aspects of Bill C-7 that are particularly troublesome are:

- Allowing people incapable of consent to be killed, so long as they were previously approved
- Removing the 10 day waiting period, opening the way for people to die the same day they request (though they could just be having a “bad day”)
- Does not prevent euthanasia for mental illness, as euthanasia is being expanded to those with psychological suffering (neither “mental illness” nor “psychological suffering” are defined)

By expanding access to euthanasia and assisted suicide, this Government is setting itself up in opposition to many people of good will. Many religious leaders within Canada have spoken out against this Bill. In particular I draw your attention to “We Can and Must Do Much Better,”<sup>1</sup> which was signed by leaders within the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faith communities. As a Catholic myself, I bring to your attention to the “Statement by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to the re-tabling of Bill C-7.”<sup>2</sup> (Links to both of these statements can be found on the website of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.) The teaching of the Catholic Church is clear, euthanasia and assisted suicide are grave evils, violating the inherent dignity and rights of the human person. The Catholic Church teaches that any law that permits euthanasia and assisted suicide is gravely unjust. As such, I am formally and resolutely opposed to the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide. I view any government that supports these grave evils as having abandoned the foundations of morality, and as such would be unfit to govern.

In summary, I oppose any legislation permitting euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Reitzel

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/MAID\\_Religious-Leaders-in-Canada-oppose-Bill-C-7\\_EN\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/MAID_Religious-Leaders-in-Canada-oppose-Bill-C-7_EN_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CCCB-statement-on-Bill-C-7-20-October-2020-EN.pdf>