SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Mr. Rennie,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding conscience rights for physicians, nurses and other health care providers. The current *Bill 84, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) Stature Law Amendment Act* does not provide conscience protection for health care providers and institutions who conscientiously object to taking part in MAID.

Despite conscience protection in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and assurance in federal Bill C-14 that no health care professional should be compelled to provide or assist in providing these procedures, the College of Physician and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) requires an 'effective referral' for 'Medical Assistance in Dying'. Doctors and health care workers may object to participating in MAID for any number of reasons: conscience, ethics, moral convictions or the Hippocratic Oath. For them, an 'effective referral' is akin to performing the procedure. They should, unquestionably, have the right to object to participate in any way, in MAID!!

Ontario now has an opportunity to offer the same conscience protection that is in place in every other country worldwide where medical assistance in dying has been legalized. Why won't Ontario respect these fundamental rights?

To protect conscience rights and prevent the thousands of objecting physicians and health care providers from being forced out of their practice, I ask that the *Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs* support the following:

- **An amendment to Bill 84 that would provide comprehensive conscience protection: health care workers should not be forced to refer for, perform or assist in MAID against their will and should not be discriminated against for taking this stand.**
- **The creation of a Care Coordination Service consistent with the approach of Alberta, which protects both patients and health care workers.**

I respectfully request that the Committee support the inclusion of these conscience rights in any forthcoming legislation.

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Sincerely,