



## Freedom of Conscience Bill to be debated in Canada on May 29

Dear friends and supporters;

I expect *The Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act* will be debated on May 29, 2019.

Two years ago, taking a patient's life was culpable homicide. Although the law now permits physician assisted suicide, many doctors' consciences will not. The Supreme Court of Canada has explicitly said that the legalization of euthanasia did not entail a duty of physicians to provide it.

However, regional associations have introduced regulations compelling conscientiously objecting physicians to provide effective referrals for physician assisted suicide, contravening this assurance. This happens, without any penalty.

I believe it's time to stand up for doctors and health care providers who aren't willing to leave their core ethics behind when they are at a patient's bedside. The protection of conscience rights for medical professionals is part of protecting the fundamental freedom of conscience and religion guaranteed to all Canadians in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Bill C-418 amends the Criminal Code to make it an offence to intimidate a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care

professional for compelling them to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying.

It also makes it an offence to dismiss from employment or to refuse to employ a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for the reason only that they refuse to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying.



**The more people know about C-418, the higher the likelihood that it will pass in the House of Commons.**

David Anderson, MP  
Cypress Hills-Grasslands

P.S. Here are live links to the [petitions](#) and [draft letters](#) to be sent to the Justice Minister and Members of Parliament.

## THE EUTHANASIA DECEPTION

Watch *The Euthanasia Deception* documentary trailer: [www.vulnerablefilm.com](http://www.vulnerablefilm.com)

\* **RECEIVE AN ONLINE VIEWING LINK WITH ANY DONATION TO THE EPC**

Please share this powerful resource with your community.

Donate using the included card, online at [www.epcc.ca](http://www.epcc.ca) or call 1-877-439-3348.

*The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition exists to protect people by building a well-informed, broadly-based network of groups and individuals for an effective social resistance to euthanasia and assisted suicide.*

## Canadian Palliative Care Physician Speaks Out Against Legalizing Euthanasia in NZ

Dr. Leonie Herx, President of the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians, spoke out against the legalization of euthanasia in a debate on April 1 concerning the End of Life Choice Bill being debated in New Zealand.

A report by Dan Satherley published by *Newshub* says that Herx urged New Zealanders not to legalize euthanasia. Her argument was based on her experience with euthanasia in Canada. Satherley reports:

Euthanasia has been legal in Canada since 2016, where it's known as medical aid in dying, or MAID. Since then about 8000 have chosen to end their lives this way, Dr. Herx says, making up around 1.5% of all deaths.

Herx explained that there is already a push to expand euthanasia:

“We've had a Superior Court Justice who's said the reasonably foreseeable death clause does not apply—so prognosis is not to be a factor. So anyone with chronic disease, osteoarthritis for example, have been given permission to be euthanized. The government mandated a taskforce to look at extending the criteria to including mental health.”

The Canadian law currently states that their natural death has to be “reasonably foreseeable”, ruling out conditions like osteoarthritis and mental health.

It also states they have to be at least 18, but Dr. Herx suspects that's about to change.

“The largest children's hospital in Canada—the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children—has already published their guidelines on how euthanasia will



Dr. Leonie Herx

occur for mature minors. It includes if the child says they don't want the parent to know, the parent will be informed the child has died after they've received euthanasia.”

Dr. Herx also says there is discussion on whether to allow advance directives for euthanasia...

Herx explained that Canadians did not expect to have this experience.

“These are the types of problems that I don't think anyone expected in Canada. It seems you could put a nice fence around it, but once you let the genie out of the bottle, unfortunately you can't put it back in.”

“The reality on the ground is very different than this rosy picture that has been portrayed ... Learn from Canada's mistakes.”

Dr. Herx has been working in palliative medicine for more than 10 years and has become one of Canada's leading palliative care physicians.

## United Nations Disability Envoy Demands Protection from Euthanasia for People with Disabilities in Canada



Catalina Devandas Aguilar

A United Nations disability rights envoy recently challenged Canada's federal government to make systematic change to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are upheld.

One of the persons with disabilities interviewed by the United Nations envoy was Roger Foley from London, Ontario, who says he was pressured by doctors to request euthanasia. Foley launched a lawsuit after being denied self-directed home care.

## Netherlands Euthanasia Deaths are Lower

### We Are Concerned About Euthanasia for “Completed Life”

Avis Favaro reported for *CTV News* that Catalina Devandas Aguilar, the UN’s first ever Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, met with Foley and other disability advocates. [According to Favaro:](#)

Roger Foley suffers from cerebellar ataxia, a fatal neurological disorder that limits his ability to move his arms and legs. He launched a landmark lawsuit against a London, Ont. hospital, several health agencies, the Ontario government and the federal government, alleging that health officials would not provide him with an [assisted home care team of his choosing](#).

Instead, Foley alleges, he was offered, among other things, a medically assisted death.

Favaro interviewed Rhonda Wiebe, Co-chair of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities Ending of Life Ethics Committee who stated, “This is about ripping him from his home and family and community and sticking him far away in a place where he will die alone...”

Devandas Aguilar told Favaro that she was primarily concerned with the effect of medically assisted deaths on the disability community:

Among her chief concerns were reports of patients allegedly pressured to undergo medically assisted deaths, a lack of community care that forces patients into nursing homes, and how the court system fails people with disabilities.

Devandas Aguilar said she was “extremely concerned” about the implications of assisted dying legislation on people with disabilities after hearing multiple complaints.

“I urge the federal government to investigate these complaints and put into place adequate safeguards to ensure that persons with disabilities do not request assistive dying simply because of the absence of community-based alternatives and palliative care,”

People with disabilities are being pressured to die by euthanasia in Canada. How many people have been pressured to die by euthanasia and succumbed to the pressure?

The 2018 Netherlands euthanasia report indicates there were 6126 reported euthanasia deaths in 2018 down from 6585 reported euthanasia deaths in 2017.

Annemarie de Jong, [writing for the \*Nordhollands Dagblad\*](#), quoted Jacob Kohnstamm, Chairman of the Euthanasia Review Committees, saying that the number of euthanasia deaths was “a fluctuation in the figures”.

The article by de Jong suggests that there will be an increase in euthanasia deaths in 2019. [She reported](#) that the NIVEL research institute stated:

It is striking that the number of euthanasia reports increased by 9% in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same period last year.

According to studies done every 5 years, [20% to 23% of the euthanasia deaths are not reported](#) in the Netherlands.

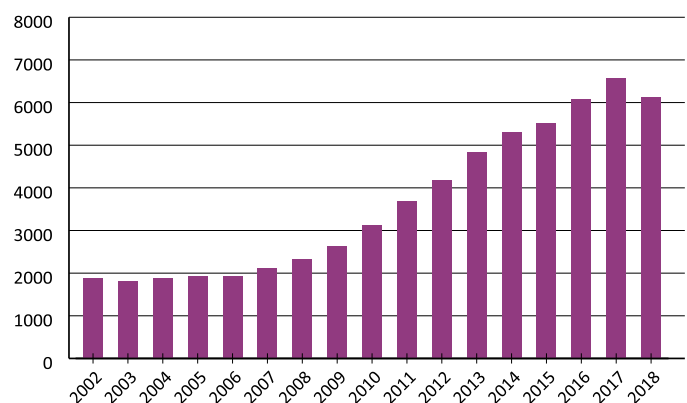
The number of euthanasia deaths for dementia and psychiatric problems also declined in 2018 while a new category of death causes us concern. [DutchNews.nl reported:](#)

Of the cases reported to the committee last year, 146 concerned people with dementia and 67 people had severe psychiatric problems. In 205 cases, patients had multiple problems derived from the ageing process.

In 2017, 169 people died by euthanasia for dementia and 83 people died by euthanasia for psychiatric reasons.

The 205 people with *multiple problems derived from the aging process* were part of a new category known as “*the completed life*”.

We are convinced that the lower number of reported euthanasia deaths last year is related to the euthanasia cases being prosecuted in the Netherlands and Belgium. Doctors don’t want to be brought before a tribunal or court to justify why they lethally injected a patient.



## Oklahoma Death Certificate Accuracy Act Passes

**Great news!** The [Oklahoma Senate Bill \(SB\) 108](#), *The Death Certificate Accuracy Act*, passed in the Senate on February 25 by a vote of 35 to 10 and in the House on April 17 by a vote of 59 to 36.

SB 108, sponsored by Senator Gary Stanislawski and Representative Sean Roberts, is clear legislation that requires the cause of death to be accurately reported on the death certificate. Among other things, SB 108 states:

A certifier completing cause of death on a certificate of death who knows that a lethal drug, overdose or other means of assisting suicide within the meaning of Sections 3141.2 through 3141.4 of this title caused or contributed to the death, shall list that means among the chain of events under cause of death or list it in the box that describes how the injury occurred. If such means is in the chain of events under or in the box that describes how the injury occurred, the certifier shall indicate “suicide” as the manner of death.

The bill later states:

A certifier who knowingly omits to list a lethal agent or improperly states manner of death in violation of subsection E of Section 1-317 of this title shall be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct as described in paragraph 8 of Section 509 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

It then declares that a violation of any provisions of this section constitutes a felony.

Assisted suicide is not legal in Oklahoma, but in states where it is, the law requires the doctor to falsify the death certificate. When a person dies by assisted suicide, the doctor is required to declare the cause of death as the medical condition that the person was living with rather than declare death by assisted suicide. This is just one of the many lies and cover-ups that the assisted suicide lobby uses to hide the truth about assisted suicide.



Elaine Kolb and Cathy Ludlum

It is great news that Connecticut once again defeated their assisted suicide bill.

There are many people who have worked for many years to continue defeating assisted suicide in Connecticut. A special “shout out” goes to the efforts of the Second Thoughts Connecticut disability rights group.

It is unlikely that the assisted suicide bill has a chance at passing in the legislative session next year. State Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, a co-chair of the Public Health committee told [Jenna Carlesso from \*The CTMirror\*](#):

...“strongly held” religious beliefs among lawmakers, coupled with concerns from people with disabilities, prevented the bill from advancing to the House floor.

The bill’s chances of success next year also are low, Steinberg said, since several members are holding firm in their opposition.

“Modifying the bill in and of itself would not necessarily change any votes. So I think we would probably be looking to a new legislature,” he said.

Nicole Leonard, [reporting for \*WNPR\*](#), interviewed Elaine Kolb from the disability rights group Second Thoughts.

Elaine Kolb, of West Haven, testified against the bill as an activist for disability rights and a member of Second Thoughts Connecticut, a grassroots organization that views aid-in-dying as assisted suicide.

She spoke on how the legislation could pose a danger to people with disabilities. Specifically, Kolb said patients and medical professionals may be quick to refer to aid-in-dying without acknowledging what someone with a disability is still capable of doing.

Leonard reported that Kolb intends to remain involved with Second Thoughts and opposing assisted suicide for the rest of her life.