



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Kevin Waugh

Member of Parliament/Député
Saskatoon-Grasswood/Saskatoon Grasswood



PRESS RELEASE

C-14, THE LONG AWAITED PHYSICIAN ASSISTED DYING LEGISLATION FINALLY TABLED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA - April 14, 2016 - Today, the Liberal government introduced their long awaited Physician Assisted Dying legislation, as mandated by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Kevin commented: “This issue is highly complex, divisive and deeply sensitive. Our party’s priority has been to ensure the legislation includes safeguards for the most vulnerable in our society, as well as for the rights of physicians and health professionals who do not agree with Doctor Assisted Death.”

A Special Joint Committee was struck to study the matter and report back to Parliament. Four Conservative Members of the Special Joint Committee were forced to write a dissenting report in response to the main report. It included recommendations to exclude minors; include stringent safeguards to protect those with underlying mental health challenges; and recognize the risks involved with advanced directives. These recommendations have been included in the bill.

“One of the 4 authors of the dissenting report, Michael Cooper, MP, St. Albert-Edmonton, visited Saskatoon when I hosted 3 information sessions on this subject. He explained his concerns with the Joint Committee main report. Many of the attendees were physicians that echoed his concerns,” said MP Waugh.

The Liberals made a key election commitment to invest \$3-billion in long-term care, including palliative care. Access to palliative care is an essential part of end-of-life decision making. There was unanimous agreement from the Special Joint Committee, and stakeholders, including the CMA, of the need for a pan-Canadian strategy on palliative care with dedicated funding. This funding was not included in the 2016 Budget.

Individual members of the Conservative caucus will have the freedom to examine this legislation, determine whether it includes sufficient safeguards, and make their decisions on supporting or opposing it on behalf of their constituents.

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