



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Mark Warawa

Member of Parliament
Langley-Aldergrove

Ottawa
780 Valour Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-992-1157
Fax: 613-943-1823
mark.warawa@parl.gc.ca

Constituency
104-4769 222 Street
Langley, BC V2Z 3C1
Tel: 604-534-5955
Fax: 604-534-5970
markwarawa.com

February 7, 2018

Fraser Health Authority Board of Directors
Suite 400, Central City Tower
13450 – 102nd Avenue
Surrey, BC V3T 0H1

Dear Directors:

Re: Palliative Care

I am deeply honoured to represent Canadians as the Member of Parliament for Langley—Aldergrove. In this 42nd Parliament of Canada, I serve as the Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Palliative Care and Income Security.

Currently, 70% of Canadian residents that need hospice palliative care do not have reasonable access to it. That is why Parliament unanimously passed Bill C-277, legislation requiring the federal government to work with provinces and territories to establish a National Palliative Care Framework so that hospice palliative care would be provided to every Canadian resident who needs it.

I am deeply concerned by the Fraser Health Authority (FHA)'s recent decision to require that hospice palliative care facilities provide assisted suicide and euthanasia to hasten the death of patients. The internationally recognized definition of palliative care is that it "neither hastens nor postpones death". Requiring hospice palliative care facilities to hasten the death of a patient through the use of assisted suicide and euthanasia directly contradicts this recognized mandate and social licence of hospice facilities, health care professionals and volunteers that are supported and funded by generous donors in our communities.

.../page 2

Page 2 ...

With this recent FHA decision, British Columbia has become the only province in Canada to require that hospice palliative facilities provide assisted suicide and euthanasia to hasten the death of a patient. This change could destroy hospice palliative care as we know it at a time when we need it more than ever.

Tragically, we already see hospice palliative care physicians and volunteers resigning over this recent change. I ask FHA to reverse their recent decision, participate in the current National Palliative Care consultations, and allow hospice palliative care facilities to continue to provide dignified, compassionate care to their patients that "neither hastens nor postpones death". I look forward to a day when palliative care will be provided to every Canadian resident that needs it.

Sincerely,



Mark Warawa, M.P.
Langley—Aldergrove

cc: The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, P.C. M.P., Minister of Health
Marilyn Gladu, M.P.
The Honourable Adrian Dix, M.L.A., Minister of Health
The Honourable Darryl Plecas, Speaker, M.L.A.
Rich Coleman, M.L.A.
Mary Polak, M.L.A.
Jack Froese, Mayor, Township of Langley
Langley Hospice Society
Delta Hospice Society