

Help stop MAiD for mental illness

A law expanding medical assistance in dying (MAiD) was passed in 2021. The law included a provision that would allow a person to be eligible for euthanasia on the basis of mental illness alone, with a built-in delay. **MAiD for mental illness alone will take effect on March 17, 2027, unless a bill is passed to stop it.**

An MP introduced **Bill C-218** in June to stop MAiD for mental illness. This bill will need broad support to pass.

Reasons for concern

Suicidality, despair and a closed view of the future are symptoms of some mental disorders. There is no clear way to distinguish between suicidality and a desire for death via MAiD.

Vague and subjective wording: Canada's MAiD laws use vague and subjective terms. What mental disorders will be considered a "serious" illness making someone eligible for MAiD? Will it be those listed in the DSM-5, such as anxiety, depression, autism, PTSD? Defining these terms subjectively on a case-by-case basis is not a universal protection.

Additional safeguards? None. There are no new safeguards in the law for those with mental illness as their only underlying medical condition.

Mental illness doesn't necessarily follow a predictable trajectory. Experts say the trajectory of an individual person's mental illness is difficult, if not impossible, to predict.

Mental illness is complex, but there is no requirement in law that the person requesting MAiD be directly assessed by a psychiatrist.

Canada doesn't limit MAiD to be a last resort after all reasonable treatment options have been tried. It requires only that patients be *informed* of the means available to relieve their suffering and seriously consider them.

It is unconscionable that in Canada it may be easier to access euthanasia than to access treatments and supports to live.

What you can do

Ask your MP to support Bill C-218

Step 1: Pray for God to bless your MP and the MP's staff. Pray for your MP to be open and wise, and able to hear what you are communicating.

Step 2: Find your MP's contact information at www.OurCommons.ca/members. You can search using your postal code. The Contact tab under your MP's photo has the phone number and address.

Step 3: Ask your MP to support Bill C-218 by calling, writing or meeting with your MP.

Your phone call or voicemail message can be simple: "I live in your riding and I appreciate your willingness to serve our community. I am really concerned that MAiD for mental illness alone will take effect in March 2027. Canada must not allow this. I'd like you to support Bill C-218 to stop MAiD on the basis of mental illness."

For greater impact, tell a personal story. Contact your MP in more than one way, e.g. write *and* call. See the EFC's resources at www.TheEFC.ca/C-218.

Tell a friend



Raise awareness about MAiD for mental illness alone in your network. Many Canadians don't realize this law has already been passed and that we must ask for it to be stopped.

Please support Bill C-218 to stop MAiD on the basis of mental illness alone.