

Christian Family Life

Date: January 15, 2021



Communiqué #12

Care for Our Common Home

TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: National Executive (for information)
FROM: Pat Deppiesse, National Chairperson of Christian Family Life

Bill C-7 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)

I am compelled to write to you again on this critical issue. On behalf of the League, I recently attended Zoom meetings with representatives from the following groups interested in defeating Bill C-7 and the proposed expansion of medical assistance in dying (MAiD): Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), Canadian Physicians for Life, Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians, Cardus, Angus Reid Institute, Christian Legal Fellowship and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities.

This honourable group was very interested and encouraged that the League, through its almost 70,000 members, would be encouraged to write letters to help support its work to defeat Bill C-7 and to pray for the group in support of its efforts.

Please ask your diocesan counterparts to share this information with members. Their actions and prayers are vital at this time to help prevent the passing of this bill. The League encourages members to join thousands of Canadians in writing their members of parliament to ask that the bill be defeated, replaced by legislation that will prevent people from being pressured into MAiD and doctors from being forced to facilitate it, and to provide proper funding for palliative care.

At the aforementioned meetings, I was encouraged to review a November 20, 2020 report from Cardus and the Angus Reid Institute on MAiD in Canada. I am confident you would find it as interesting as I did. Visit cardus.ca/research/health/reports/broad-support-for-maid-in-canada-has-caveats-and-concerns to obtain this report.

On December 18, 2020 the executive committee of the CCCCBB requested “all people of good will to become better informed on the content and grave moral implications of Bill C-7, and to address their objections and concerns directly to their local member of Parliament and the members of the Senate.” The committee prays, “Saint Joseph, patron of a happy death, of Canada, and of the Universal Church, we beseech your intercession in these difficult moments.”

You may be aware that Bill C-7 will be re-tabled in parliament in February 2021. I implore you to ask your diocesan counterparts to encourage parish councils to review the October 22nd Christian family life communique (cwl.ca) to see the actions required and access the information provided to help format their letters. I would be interested in hearing if any responses are received.

I urge you to please pass this message on to your diocesan counterparts immediately so they can encourage all members to write to their local members of parliament before February and express their wishes for the government to reject Bill C-7. Together, members can make an impact!

May God bless you and keep you safe,



Pat Deppiesse
National Chairperson of Christian Family Life