

A CALL TO COMPASSION: OPPOSING MAiD FOR MENTAL ILLNESS(2026/02/15)

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada is authorized under the *Criminal Code* and has been extended to mental illness since 2021. That extension has been postponed to March 17, 2027, when individuals suffering solely from mental illness will become eligible for MAiD. This means instead of offering hope, intensive treatment, and long-term support to those in deep psychological distress, the state will offer them a path to end their lives.

A private Member's bill, Bill C-218, has been initiated seeking to permanently exclude mental illness as a sole eligibility criterion for MAiD. We believe this bill deserves our prayerful and active support.

Why We Stand Opposed

As Christians, we believe the expansion of MAiD eligibility to mental illness is a departure from Biblical teachings to care for the vulnerable. We oppose this law for these reasons:

Life is Sacred Gift: Scripture teaches that humans are created in the Image of God (Genesis 1:27), and affirms that He is the giver and sustainer of life. Even in suffering, our lives retain meaning and value. To treat a life as “disposable” due to temporary or even chronic mental suffering is to devalue the dignity God has placed in every person.

Hope vs. Despair: Mental illnesses—such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, or bipolar disorder—are often treatable, and people can and do recover. Offering assisted death in moments of deep despair risks turning a temporary crisis into a permanent decision. As Christians, we are called to “comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Corinthians 1:4). Suicide prevention, and giving hope and compassion is the true expression of Christian love.

Vulnerability and risk of abuse: Many Canadians suffering from mental illness also face poverty, isolation, trauma, disability, or lack of access to care. Expanding MAiD risks subtly pressuring vulnerable people to see death as a solution when what they truly need is care, companionship, and hope.

Providing Care, Not Death: We believe the government should prioritize resources for mental health care, counseling, housing, and social and community supports. In Matthew 25:35-36, Jesus calls us to feed the hungry and care for the sick. Offering death as a “solution” to suffering is a failure of our collective responsibility.

How You Can Take Action

- a) Pray for those suffering with mental illness, for their families, caregivers, and for our leaders.
- b) Sign the E-Petition supporting Bill C-218 to prevent the expansion of MAiD to mental illness alone. See - https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-7136&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email
- c) Sign the paper Petition at the Fellowship Court on Sundays - February 22 and March 1.
- a) Write to your local MP, urging them to support Bill C-218 and to advocate for life-affirming mental health care. Sample letter/email at - [PDF format](#); [Word format](#);