

November 15, 2016

Ms. Marilyn Gladu, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Gladu,

Compassion is a foundational element of Canadian society, and a core tenet of our respective faith traditions. We believe that palliative care is a compassionate response to those who are facing illness or at the end of life. It is an approach that treats the whole person, respects human dignity and provides comfort to the most vulnerable among us.

Yet it is estimated that only about 30% of Canadians who need palliative care have access to it. It is a national imperative that we increase the quality of and access to palliative care across the country, and make it a central and integral part of our health care system.

We are writing to thank you for bringing much-needed attention to this critical issue, and to communicate our support for the intent of Bill C-277. This private member's bill requires the development of a palliative care framework, which would lead us a significant step forward by increasing caregiver support and data collection, and identifying palliative care education and training needs.

The *Interfaith Statement on Palliative Care*, enclosed with this letter, calls on all levels of government to develop a pan-Canadian palliative and end-of-life care strategy. Our faith groups signed this statement this past June, calling for initiatives to increase the quality, availability and accessibility of palliative care across the country. As you will note, the Statement is based on a definition of palliative care provided by Health Canada and is in line with the principles of the World Health Organization.

Thank you for your efforts to improve palliative care in Canada.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shimon Koffler Fogel, CEO
Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton and
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Imam Sikander Hashmi
Canadian Council of Imams

Mr. Bruce Clemenger, President
The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC)

Archbishop Papken Tcharian, Prelate
Armenian Prelacy of Canada

His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios,
Primate, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto & All Canada
President, Canadian Conference of Orthodox Bishops

Imam Samy Metwally
Ottawa Main Mosque/Ottawa Muslim Association

Sandra Pallin, National Director
Canada Public Affairs Council
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, President
Lutheran Church-Canada

Encl. Interfaith Statement on Palliative Care