Sample Letter

Dear MPP (add name):

As Ontario prepares for an election shortly, and as my current MPP (or candidate in my riding), I would like to ask for your commitment to protecting the rights of health care professionals and facilities in our province. I am also deeply concerned about the most vulnerable among us, in light of the legalization of assisted suicide in Canada in June 2016.

Specifically, the conscience rights of health professionals need to be protected through provincial legislation. The current care coordination service operated in Ontario, unlike those in other jurisdictions, still forces doctors to provide referrals, thus participating in the procedure. Five doctors are currently challenging the policies of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that require them to choose between their conscience and their careers. We should be protecting these physicians rather than forcing them to fight for rights guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Advocates of euthanasia/assisted suicide are lobbying strongly to force any publicly funded health care facility to offer euthanasia/assisted suicide. While no medical procedure is offered in every facility across the province, proponents are demanding this of facilities that have deeply rooted principles that will not allow them to kill their patients.

Finally, with only 1/3 of Canadians having access to quality palliative care, we should not be surprised to see a dramatic increase in euthanasia/assisted suicide cases. Studies show that people are fearful of pain and loneliness. Both of these issues can be directly addressed by palliative care. I believe that if all Ontarians had access to quality palliative care, many would not pursue assisted death.

Your position and that of your party will have a direct impact on my vote this June. I am respectfully asking you the following:

1.Will you support legislation to protect doctors, nurses and other health care providers who are being forced to participate in assisted suicide/euthanasia through making a referral?
2.How will you protect facilities from being forced to offer euthanasia/assisted suicide on their premises?
3.How does your party plan to address the lack of quality palliative care in our province?

I appreciate you addressing these concerns directly and look forward to your reply. Know that I very much respect the important role that our elected officials play in serving the citizens of our Province.

Thank you.