



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Mike Morrice*

Member of Parliament  
Kitchener Centre

The Honourable David Lametti  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

February 1, 2023

Dear Minister Lametti,

I am writing to you, along with the Canadian Mental Health Association of Waterloo Wellington, to express our concerns regarding the pending expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) to allow people to qualify for MAiD when mental illness is the sole underlying condition. We are encouraged by the Minister's announcement that the government will delay this expansion of MAiD through the introduction of legislation and believe this is the right decision. We have heard cross-party support for this delay, and we urge the Minister to follow through on this promise by introducing legislation at the earliest opportunity.

We believe that before MAiD is expanded to mental health, the government should first focus on closing the social safety net and ensuring that all people with a mental illness have access to the supports they need to recover and the care they need to be well. This includes housing, food, income, and wrap-around health supports.

Currently in the Waterloo Region there are nearly 4,000 people waiting for mental health support. The federal government has an obligation to ensure that a person has all the resources they need to live. The absence of affordable housing, income supports, mental health care, and/or food security must not be the reason someone chooses MAiD.

Therefore, we kindly request that the Minister fulfill his promise and introduce legislation into the house to delay the expansion of MAiD for mental health and focus on providing the supports that Canadians need to live life with dignity, including but not limited to universal mental health care. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Morrice,  
MP for Kitchener Centre



Helen Fishburn  
CEO, CMHA Waterloo Wellington