



**Catholic
Health
Association
of Canada**

Communiqué – October 3, 2005

CHAC Opposes Bill C-407 – A Bill to Legalize Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

(Ottawa) – On September 26, at the start of the new session of Parliament, the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) wrote to the leaders of the federal political parties to express opposition to a private member's bill, Bill C-407, which calls for the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Representing more than 90 Catholic hospitals, homes and long-term care organizations, the CHAC opposes the legalization and practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide on the ground that they undermine the dignity of the human person by denigrating the dying process and by rejecting the community dimension of the person.

The Association holds the position that euthanasia and assisted suicide are contrary to the practices of holistic health care, cannot be regulated to prevent abuses, and are inconsistent with Canada's reputation as a protector of personal dignity and human rights.

In its letter the CHAC urges politicians to reject euthanasia and assisted suicide as a solution to the challenges posed by the suffering of terminally ill members of society. Instead, it calls on them to adopt policies that promote access to comprehensive end-of-life care for all Canadians as the way to ensure that people near death receive compassionate care and are able to die with dignity.

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The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) is a national Christian association supportive of health care in the tradition of the Catholic Church. As the national voice for Catholic health care, the CHAC acts to promote health in all its aspects: physical, emotional, spiritual and social. Its membership includes seven provincial associations; 23 sponsors/owners of health care organizations; 95 hospitals and long-term care organizations; health care professionals; and affiliate organizations and individuals.