



**Catholic  
Health  
Alliance  
of Canada**

Communiqué – September 14, 2009

## **CHAC Opposes Bill C-384 – A Bill to Legalize Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide**

(Ottawa) – On September 14, at the start of the new session of Parliament, the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) wrote to the leaders of the federal political parties to express opposition to a private member's bill, Bill C-384, which calls for the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Comprised of 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 Alliance 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 for the adoption of 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 Alliance of Canada (CHAC) is a national secretariat that works to strengthen and support the ministry of Catholic health care organizations and providers.