

## Advocacy Toolkit – Bill C-218

The federal government has been rapidly expanding euthanasia, to the point where Canada now has one of the most permissive euthanasia regimes in the world. Over 15,000 Canadians per year die at the hands of doctors and nurses. Euthanasia is now the fifth most common cause of death in Canada (nearly 1 in every 20 deaths). We must continue to call Canadians to care for, not kill, those who are suffering. Euthanasia should never be the answer to suffering.

Canada will offer euthanasia for people with mental illness as their sole underlying condition starting March 17, 2027, unless Parliament repeals the law before then. Now is the time to encourage Members of Parliament to stop that expansion and promote suicide prevention instead of suicide assistance.

Bill C-218, introduced by MP Tamara Jansen, would repeal the expansion of euthanasia to people with mental illness. In order to pass, the bill needs the support of all Conservative, NDP, and Green MPs (as a recent similar bill had), as well as at least 20 Liberal MPs. Your MP needs to know that you oppose the continued expansion of euthanasia.



## Meeting with Your Representative: **Step-by-Step Guide**

### Preparing for the Meeting

1. Identify & Research Your Member of Parliament
2. If you don't know who your MP is, you can find out by visiting <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en> and entering your postal code.
3. When your MP's information comes up, click on their name and view their current roles, work, and contact information.
4. Google search your MP's name to see if they have a website that indicates their priorities. How long have they served? What party do they represent? Do they sit on any committees in the House of Commons? Have they said anything related to this issue?
5. Send a meeting request: short email with the topic and who will attend. You can find a sample meeting request below.

**Subject:** Meeting Request re. Bill C-218

Dear MP [Last Name],

Thank you for your continued work as my Member of Parliament.

I wanted to reach out to you regarding Bill C-218. If passed, the bill would repeal the pending expansion of euthanasia to people with mental illness as their sole underlying condition.

I'm wondering if we can schedule a 20-minute meeting to discuss this issue further. I would appreciate the opportunity to briefly explain why I think you should support Bill C-218. And I would love to hear your perspective on this bill. Please let me know what time works best for you.

Sincerely,  
[name]  
[postal code]  
[phone number, if desired]

Follow up if no response. Send a brief follow up email one week after initial request. Call your representative's office after another week to confirm the office received your email and to inquire about a time to meet with the MP.

## Attending the Meeting

1. **Introduce yourself** politely; thank the MP for their work.
2. **Present the issue:** below are a few talking points, and further explanation can be found in the one-page brief on page 4.
  - a. Canada needs to promote suicide prevention and life-affirming care for all.
  - b. News reports already show depressed and anxious people being offered death instead of care. That is unacceptable.
  - c. Canadians don't want this: 82% say mental health care must improve before MAiD is even considered for mental illness.
  - d. Half of Canadians outright oppose this expansion, while only 28% support it.
  - e. Expanding euthanasia for the mentally ill means legitimizing suicide as "treatment."
  - f. The better way forward is always more care, more support, more compassion.
3. **Offer a solution:** 'Canada must stop the expansion of MAiD to those with mental illness as their sole underlying condition.'
4. **Make an "ask":** 'Please support Bill C-218 and encourage your colleagues to do the same.'
5. **Listen & note commitments:** Write down anything they agree to.
6. **Conclude:** Thank them, offer to pray for them.

## Meeting Tips

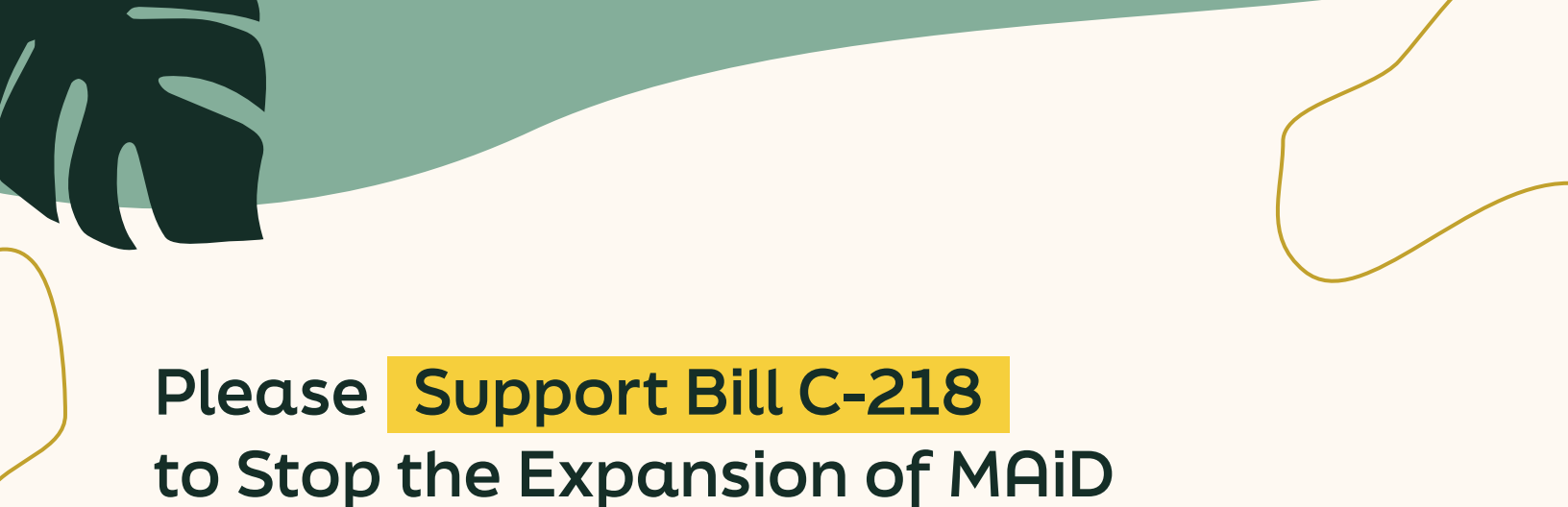
1. Respect their time and be punctual (30 minutes maximum is standard).
2. Treat them as a fellow human being made in God's image.
3. Don't be afraid to say "I don't know. Can I follow up with more information?"
4. Always circle back to a main point. What is the key thing you want to share?
5. If possible, tell stories – especially personal stories – related to the issue. Real examples are powerful.

## After the Meeting

Send a follow up email to thank them for the meeting, including any materials or information you promised to share. Repeat your ask and any commitments they made.

Note: Please reach out to [info@arpacanada.ca](mailto:info@arpacanada.ca) for assistance with any of these steps.

*\*\*The following page can be printed and left behind with your MP.*



# Please **Support Bill C-218** to Stop the Expansion of MAiD

Beginning on March 17, 2027, Canadians with mental illness as their sole underlying condition will become eligible for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). This will normalize a life-ending procedure as a solution for suffering and undermine suicide prevention efforts. Parliamentarians can prevent this and protect vulnerable people by repealing this expansion of MAiD.

Providing MAiD as a “treatment option” for mental illness is incompatible with mental health care, causing some Canadians to think MAiD is the only viable solution to their suffering and to choose assisted suicide rather than mental health supports. The previous delay to the expansion of MAiD to mental illness was not enough. The planned expansion needs to be repealed entirely. Bill C-218 seeks to protect Canadians with mental illness by stopping further expansion.

## **Key Concerns**

- The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recently condemned Canada's approach to MAiD and urged Canada not to expand MAiD to mental illness.
- Several problems with offering MAiD for mental illness – problems which the previous Parliament recognized and which delayed expanding MAiD to mental illness – remain largely unresolved. These include questions about irremediability, informed consent, suicidality, other vulnerabilities, and lack of access to mental health supports.
- There is no consensus in the medical community regarding whether mental illness can ever be considered irremediable. People who struggle with mental illness need hope that they can improve or recover in the long term, but offering MAiD may cause them to give up hope.
- Some Canadians have sought professional support in a crisis, including mental health crises, only to be offered MAiD. This is deeply traumatic and unacceptable.
- A recent poll indicated that 82% of Canadians say MAiD should not be expanded without first improving access to mental health care.
- Rather than encouraging people to access mental health care, legalizing MAiD for mental illness encourages people to end their lives. Instead of providing a life-ending option for Canadians with mental illness, the federal government should provide better access to mental health supports.

## **Recommendation**

Please support Bill C-218 to eliminate the planned expansion of MAiD to those with mental illness as their only condition. Please advocate for suicide prevention in all cases of mental illness, and make every effort to stop the expansion of MAiD for mental illness.

