The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor

Minister of Health

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A6

**Insert Month Day, 2018**

Dear Minister Petitpas Taylor,

I send this appeal to urge the Government of Canada to adopt a robust monitoring system for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).

I am very concerned that the draft regulations are entirely inadequate to gather the information required to monitor the MAiD system. Serious gaps in the draft regulations would mean that we will not know whether people who are vulnerable to being induced to request MAiD because of a lack of supports and stereotypes are being identified and protected in the system.

I fully endorse the recommendations detailed in the [submission](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56bb84cb01dbae77f988b71a/t/5a845f84ec212da3285ab163/1518624645431/VPS%2BSubmission%2Bon%2BFederal%2BMAiD%2BMonitoring%2BRegulations%2B-%2BFINAL.pdf) from Advisors to the [Vulnerable Persons Standard](http://www.vps-npv.ca) (VPS) made on February 13, 2018, in response to the government’s draft regulations for monitoring Medical Assistance in Dying. In particular, I urge you to ensure that a nation-wide MAiD monitoring regime:

* will require MAiD Practitioners to report in appropriate detail any factors in a patient’s living conditions or life circumstances that may be causing or compounding their suffering;

* will require MAiD Practitioners to specifically report other treatments or interventions, such as palliative care, that were offered to relieve their patient’s suffering;
* will enable patients (or their designated representatives) and members of a patient’s primary health care team to report their knowledge and experience in relation to MAiD;
* will provide lawmakers and researchers with a deeper understanding of the reasons that patients choose MAiD; and
* will provide Canadians with sufficient information to hold the government accountable for achieving the law’s objectives of respecting autonomy and protecting people from harm.

All the amendments recommended in the VPS submission are consistent with the legislative objectives for Canada’s MAiD regime, as set out explicitly in the Preamble to the law. These amendments taken together would go far toward ensuring that persons in vulnerable circumstances are protected from error and abuse, coercion and inducement in the context of MAiD.

I urge you to adopt these crucially important recommendations.

Respectfully yours,

cc. The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

The Vulnerable Persons Standard Secretariat