

National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada/
Association Nationale des Infirmières Catholiques-Canada (NACN-Canada/ANIC-Canada)
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Center for Ethics and Human Rights Advisory Board,
American Nurses Association

To whom it may concern,

The National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada urges the American Nurses Association to maintain its position that "participation in assisted suicide and euthanasia is strictly prohibited." (ANA, 2013. Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, and Aid in Dying.) ANA's position represents a courageous voice of dissent that is valued both within and outside of the U.S.A.

Our association formed in 2018 primarily in response to Canadian nurses' moral distress regarding the nation-wide legalization of medically induced death. Professional associations and licensing bodies across Canada endorsed the legal changes, requiring conscientious objectors to participate in "Medical Assistance in Dying" by "effective referral" to facilitate access at the patient's request. Faith-based health care facilities are pressured to participate. Nurse practitioners are trained and qualified to prescribe and administer lethal doses of medication to patients that they or others deem eligible for euthanasia.

Social justice demands that nurses advocate for the protection of life until natural death, not for increased access to induced death. The Canadian experience with assisted suicide and euthanasia provides evidence for your continued resistance to the practice.

Unlike Oregon, Canada has not experienced a growth in palliative care along with the rapid expansion of induced death. Instead, we experience ongoing demands for access to lethal injections for new categories of patients, including "mature minors;" those who write advanced directives; and those whose mental illness is the sole condition underlying their request. We urge the ANA to maintain its courageous opposition to assisted suicide and euthanasia.



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