

This letter is written by physicians who have privileges at the Grey Nuns and Misericordia Hospital, Covenant Health run facilities in Edmonton. We note that Covenant Health has expressed support for Bill 207 but we have significant concerns that this bill will negatively impact patients. In fact, many of our colleagues, including Dr. Molnar, President of the Alberta Medical Association, have expressed their concerns about this bill, which threatens access to health care services by vulnerable populations.

This bill is perceived to be redundant and unnecessary, as there are safeguards already in place for health care providers who refuse to provide services citing conscientious objection. Furthermore, physicians are accountable to their regulatory body, and a bill that leaves patients without recourse except litigation when practitioners fail to provide necessary services citing conscientious objections is not only dangerous but unethical.

As medical professionals, we should provide compassionate and expert care to all populations, especially the vulnerable, despite our varied religious beliefs and backgrounds. Bill 207 potentially limits access to services like abortion, medical assistance in dying (MAID) and medical care to LGBTQ and visible minorities like Indigenous populations, as well as those living in rural communities, where limited number of health care providers may preclude them from getting a second opinion for care. In most situations, patients need more than a website to help them make significant medical decisions.

The potential for patient abandonment and to jeopardize patient well-being in the name of conscientious objection is worrisome and conflicts with the very essence of the medical practice.

With all these considerations in mind, we would like to express our opposition to Bill 207.

Respectfully,

|                       |                       |                        |                              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dr. Shelley Duggan    | Dr. Sabin Shurraw     | Dr. Janek Senaratne    | Dr. Mark Ewanchuk            |
| Dr. Elizabeth Rokosh  | Dr. Lotje Wasilenko   | Dr. Tracey Bryan       | Dr. Michael Bowman           |
| Dr. Susan Reid        | Dr. Tanya Tran        | Dr. Sayra Khandekar    | Dr. Colleen Sweeney          |
| Dr. Suhaib Alkurtass  | Dr. Jon Zaozirny      | Dr. Howard Evans       | Dr. Salma Murji              |
| Dr. Blair St Martin   | Dr. Michael Hobart    | Dr. Erika McIntyre     | Dr. Carmen Gingles           |
| Dr. Derek Bochinski   | Dr. Michael Mengel    | Dr. Kaili Hoffart      | Dr. Christina Dolhaniuk      |
| Dr. Tom Corbett       | Dr. Kiliary Komder    | Dr. Jaret Olson        | Dr. Michelle Fairgrieve-Park |
| Dr. James Wolfli      | Dr. Matt Simmonds     | Dr. Dan Stollery       | Dr. Dominic Carney           |
| Dr. Jeremy Katulka    | Dr. Richard Hanelt    | Dr. Gerrit Winkelaar   | Dr. Dave Waldner             |
| Dr. Holly Hoang       | Dr. Curtiss Boyington | Dr. Sean Bagshaw       | Dr. Leah Remington           |
| Dr. Greg Hyrynchyshyn | Dr. Lisa Korus        | Dr. Mike Bow           | Dr. Andrea Skorenki          |
| Dr. Nadia du Toit     | Dr. David Rayner      | Dr. Lakshmi Puttagunta | Dr. Cassandra Hirt-Walsh     |
| Dr. Neils Jacobsen    | Dr. Jacquie McCubbin  | Dr. Virginia Gunn      | Dr. Nadia Giannakopoulos     |
| Dr. Brian Knight      | Dr. Rahim Janmohamed  | Dr. Ron Moore          | Dr. Phil Bach                |