



28 November, 2007

The Hon. Ed Stelmach, Premier
307 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB. T5K 2B6

Re: Bill 48 “Health Facilities Accountability Statutes Amendment Act, 2007”

Dear Premier Stelmach:

I am writing to express grave concerns with Bill 48 has been tabled in the Legislature.

As Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, I have several faith-based organizations on my territory (Good Samaritan Society, The Bethany Group, The Bethany Care Society). These faith-based organizations have been providing health care to senior and disabled Albertans for roughly 85 years, and have a long and honored history of Christian care-giving.

We believe that Bill 48 undermines the very existence of faith-based health care in our province . Bill 48 eliminates the faith-based organization’s ability to advance their mission, direct their strategic contribution and undermines their ability to direct day-to-day operations. Specifically, the Bill does not recognize the right of faith-based providers – and may contravene their ability – to uphold their moral traditions and ethical principles in operations and decision-making.

I urge you to reconsider Bill 48. Changes to the proposed legislation are still possible. Allow adequate public and faith-based provider input. The faith-based organizations operating in the province deserve a seat at the discussion table.

You are in my prayers.

Yours truly,

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

cc. The Hon. Dave Hancock