

Montreal, June 12, 2013

AQDMD says “Yes” to Bill 52, An Act respecting end-of-life care

The *Association québécoise pour le droit de mourir dans la dignité* (AQDMD) welcomes the above-mentioned bill because it is convinced it meets the expectations of most Quebecers on two key issues: authorizes a medical doctor to voluntarily agree to a patient’s request for medical assistance in dying in cases explicitly provided for; and focuses on improving the quality and the availability of palliative care.

This bill is the outcome of the long societal debate on end-of-life issues and of the report of the “Select Committee on Dying with Dignity”. The report included 24 unanimously approved recommendations and commented that: “*the extent of Quebecers’ participation in the hearings is clear evidence that Quebec society was ready for this debate*”¹.

AQDMD underlines that the law to be passed would respect an eligible Quebecer’s end-of-life choices in accordance with his/her personal, religious or other values, including his/her request for assistance in dying and a doctor’s right to agree or not to such a request.

We also want to underline the significance of recognizing any eligible Quebecer’s advance directives (or “living will”) on his/her end-of-life choices and the assurance that they will be applied in case of incapacity.

We want to thank Mrs. Véronique Hivon, the members of the Select Committee and the members of the National Assembly for choosing to act upon the Select Committee’s work which generated considerable interest among Quebecers. The participation of the *Collège des médecins du Québec*, the *Barreau du Québec* and several associations and experts will make it possible for each member of the National Assembly to legislate in order that every person can choose to die according to their personal values regarding dignity and freedom.

AQDMD will continue to actively contribute to this debate for and in the name of the majority of Quebecers who are convinced of this: end-of-life choices must become a reality.

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