***Sample Letter to the Minister of Health for building on and/or making your own. . . .***

*Date*

Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

College Park 5th Floor,

777 Bay St,

Toronto, ON

M7A 2J3

Dear Minister,

I am an Ontarian writing to support Michal Kaliszan’s urgent request for additional attendant care services. Michal is a compassionate, resilient, and determined member of our community. Without access to additional support in his Cambridge home and community Michal will die.

His parents used to provide the 24 hour a day care that supported Michal to graduate university, work as a software engineer, live in his own home and have a good life. Since his mother died last October, Michal is left with inadequate attendant care – currently less than 6 hours per day. Michal’s uncle came from Poland to help, but he cannot stay past the end of March.

If Michal is unable to have his care needs met in his home, Ontario’s Ministry of Health funded services say he must move into a “long-term care” institution. This is tragic: Michal would lose the life he and his parents worked for. This is also illogical: Michal would get fewer hours of care there.

In February, Michal received his first MAiD appointment because he would rather die in his home than be institutionalized.

(INSERT YOUR EXAMPLE HERE: Like Michal……our son/daughter/friend/grandchild lives with . . . . . . I am horrified that what is happening to Michal might happen to my family member.

Many other families have worked hard so their sons and daughters living with ‘disability’ might have a good life. Ontario’s Ministry of Health must support Michal’s right to live in community. They must respect Michal’s inherent right to life, liberty and security of the person and his right to be free from discrimination, as provided for in sections 7 and 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* outlined in Article 19 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.*

Michal’s situation demonstrates that depriving someone of the care they require to live in community can be deadly. No one should be forced to end their life because they do not have access to the support they need to thrive. Our communities are better when people living with disabilities are in them.

You have the authority to grant Michal exceptional access to the support he needs, it is your time to exercise it.

Sincerely,

*Your name*

*Address*

*Phone Number & Email*

CC.

*Your Local MPP*?

Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health

Disability Justice Network of Ontario

Seniors for Social Action Ontario

Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

*Any person or group important to you – personal networks, contacts?*

*Media contacts?*

*EMAIL INFORMATION BELOW FOR REMOVAL FROM YOUR LETTER LATER:*

Letter to Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health email: sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

CC’s:

* To find your local MPP use this link: <https://www.ola.org/en/members>
* Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health
* dawn.gallagher.murphy@ontario.ca
* Disability Justice Network of Ontario: info@djno.ca
* Seniors for Social Action Ontario: seniorsactionontario@gmail.com
* Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario: individualizedfundingcoalition@gmail.com

Other Ideas for CC’s:

* France Gélinas, Official Opposition, Ministry of Health Critic: gelinas-qp@ndp.on.ca
* Dr. Adil Shamji, Ontario Liberal Caucus Critic for Health: ashamji.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

(Note: This sample letter, adapted further, was first prepared by Marilyn Dolmage - Thank you to Marilyn for sharing broadly.)