Canada Pressuring Hospice to Commit Euthanasia

A 10-bed hospice in Canada refuses to commit euthanasia. Canada’s assisted-suicide program, called “Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) was legalized in 2016. But the Irene Thomas Hospice says the philosophy of hospice care is “fundamentally opposed to the provision of euthanasia.” When patients ask for euthanasia, the hospice transfers them to another facility.

Canada’s regional health authority has threatened to revoke funding of the hospice, which today receives nearly 50 percent of its revenue from the Canadian government, or $750,000 in Canadian dollars. Euthanasia supporters say the hospice has no right to conscientious objection because it receives public funding and it’s not a religious institution. How quickly euthanasia is moving from a legal service to a compulsory service.