Community Letter to Premier Ford

EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

Subject Line: Your Intervention Needed! Please Help Lisa McColeman

Dear Premier Ford,

I am writing you today because there is an Ontario woman who desperately needs your help.
Lisa McColeman is a 58-year-old wife, mother, grandmother, retired teacher, farmer, and valued member of her community who is living with hypophosphatasia (HPP), a rare genetic bone disease that she has had since childhood but took decades to diagnose. Today, she lives with rapidly declining mobility and unbearable chronic pain, and requires increasing levels of care and support.
There is one approved treatment for HPP in Canada, called Strensiq (asfotase alfa), which was prescribed to Lisa by her medical specialist because it could improve her condition. However, **your Minister of Health refuses to give Lisa access to this treatment, not because it isn't approved for her, but because your government says she was too old when she was diagnosed.** Without this treatment, her disease will only continue to get worse.

Premier Ford, as the leader of our government and this province, I am asking you to intervene before it is too late. Lisa has shared publicly that without access to treatment, she is considering medical assistance in dying (MAID) - which would be fully funded by your government - because she sees no other way to relieve her pain and suffering.

I hope you agree that no Ontarian should suffer this fate, especially when there is a treatment available that could prevent it.

Instead of paying for Lisa to die before her time, I implore you to work with your government, the Ministry of Health and the manufacturer to find a solution that will give Lisa the chance to continue living, remain independent, and spend meaningful time with her family. I understand your government has the power to make this happen, so please find a way to ensure she receives access to the treatment her physician has prescribed.

To learn more about Lisa's story, please visit: https://osteoporosis.ca/hypophosphatasia/lisas-story-with-hpp/.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for all that you do to protect the lives of Ontarians.

Sincerely,

[Insert Name]
[Insert City, Province]

<u>TEXT:</u> 647-612-3673 (Premier's cell phone to send text message)

Premier Ford, my name is [Name] and I'm reaching out on behalf of Lisa McColeman from Fergus, Ontario. Lisa is a wife, mother, grandmother, retired teacher, and a person living with HPP, a rare genetic bone disease that causes severe pain and disability.

Lisa's specialist has prescribed Strensiq for her, the only approved treatment for HPP, but she has been denied access because of her age. Without treatment, her condition will continue to worsen.
Lisa has shared publicly that she is considering MAID because she sees no other way to relieve her suffering. It is heartbreaking that your government would fund her death but not the treatment that could help her live.

I urge you to intervene and help Lisa access Strensiq before it's too late. Your government has the power to make this happen. Please choose to support Lisa's chance to live with dignity and hope.

Thank you.