



t +27 21 556 5502
a P.O. Box 50110
West Beach
Cape Town 7441
e info@forsa.org.za
www.forsa.org.za

To: **Ms D Carter**
The Congress of the People (COPE)
Per e-mail: dcarter@parliament.gov.za

And to: **The Speaker of the National Assembly**
Per e-mail: speaker@parliament.gov.za

Re: **Request for extension of deadline:**
Written submissions on the Draft National Health Amendment Bill, 2018

Date: 17 August 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

1. We refer to the call for written submissions on the National Health Amendment Bill, 2018 ("the Bill").
2. In terms of the Government Notice dated 24th July 2018, the Bill could be obtained upon request and is open for public comment for 30 days from publication, i.e. until 24th August 2018.
3. Said Bill only came to our attention on 14th August 2018 via an e-mail from a fellow stakeholder, leaving only ten days before the deadline for submissions.
4. *Freedom of Religion South Africa (FOR SA)* is a non-profit organisation working to protect and promote religious freedom in South Africa. As such, the organisation and the constituency we represent, have a direct interest in the Bill.
5. You will agree that members of the public do not generally read the *Government Gazette*, as a result of which the general public in South Africa – who potentially stand to be directly or indirectly affected by the Bill - are not aware of the Bill. (The fact that the Bill itself was not

published in the *Government Gazette*, but specifically has to be requested, makes it even more difficult).

6. In the circumstances, critical stakeholders remain completely unaware of the Bill's existence, have not had an opportunity to thoroughly consider this very controversial Bill and make appropriate and helpful submissions thereon that will assist Parliament. (In terms of the PMG website, the Bill was not even published on their site and they were completely unaware of it until we shared it with them.)
7. With all due respect, we submit that the current process falls short of the standard for public participation and is potentially open to judicial review.
8. We accordingly request that the closing date for submissions be extended to (at least) **31 October 2018**, in order to bring the Bill to our constituency's attention, give them an opportunity to consider same and make the necessary submissions.

We look forward to your confirmation in this regard.

Kind regards,



Adv Nadene Badenhorst

Legal Counsel

Freedom of Religion South Africa (FOR SA)

E-mail: legal@forsa.org.za