

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

The "Unborn Victims of Crime Act" (Bill C-484) passed a Second Reading vote in Parliament on March 5, 2008. It is now under review by the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. The bill poses a danger to abortion rights, to the rights of all pregnant women, and to women's equality rights in general. Please sign the following petition to call upon Parliament to oppose this bill. To review Talking Points against the bill, visit www.arcc-cdac.ca/action/unborn-victims-act.htm

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED RESIDENTS OF CANADA, draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT the proposed "Unborn Victims of Crime Act" conflicts with the Criminal Code, because it grants a type of legal personhood to fetuses, fetuses being non-persons under the law.

THAT giving any legal recognition to fetuses would necessarily compromise women's established rights.

THAT pregnant women being assaulted or killed is largely a domestic violence issue and "fetal homicide" laws elsewhere have done nothing to reduce domestic violence against pregnant women or their fetuses.

THAT the proposed "Unborn Victims of Crime Act" is a dangerous step towards re-criminalizing abortion and it could also criminalize pregnant women for behaviours perceived to harm their fetuses.

THAT the proposed bill's exemptions for pregnant women may not work since, in the U.S., arrests of pregnant women have occurred even under state fetal homicide laws that make exemptions for the pregnant woman.

THAT the best way to protect fetuses is to provide pregnant women the supports and resources they need for a good pregnancy outcome, including protection from domestic violence.

THEREFORE your petitioners call upon Members of Parliament to oppose "The Unborn Victims of Crime Act" (Bill C-484).

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