

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

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

THAT Motion 312 raises issues that have already been answered by Canada’s Supreme Court (including in Tremblay v. Daigle, Dobson v. Dobson, Winnipeg Child & Family Services v. Ms.G.D.F., Borowski v. Attorney General of Canada, and R. v. Morgentaler.) The law has always treated a pregnant woman and her fetus as one person.

THAT Motion 312 is based on a fundamental confusion between the medical and biological aspects of “what is a human being” and the legal and social aspects of personhood. The Motion wrongly assumes that a medical definition defining the fetus as human will result in a change in the legal and social aspect of the fetus. As the Supreme Court stated in the Tremblay v. Daigle decision: “The task of properly classifying a foetus in law and in science are different pursuits.”

THAT giving legal recognition to fetuses would necessarily compromise women’s established constitutional rights and put their lives and health at risk.

THAT giving legal recognition to fetuses invites the prosecution of pregnant women for any perceived harm to fetuses by creating confusion around how child welfare laws and policies apply to fetuses as legal persons.

THAT the only person who can make conscientious and informed decisions on behalf of an embryo or fetus is the pregnant woman herself.

THEREFORE your petitioners call upon the House of Commons in Parliament assembled to oppose Motion 312.

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Please send completed petitions to: Niki Ashton, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6 (no postage required)