



The College of
Family Physicians
of Canada

Le Collège des
médecins de famille
du Canada

June 3, 2008 July 2, 2008

Mr. /Mrs./Ms./Hon/The Hon./

Dear :

As the voice of family medicine in Canada, the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) advocates on behalf of over 20,000 family physicians from coast to coast to coast. On May 24, 2008, the CFPC's Board of Directors reviewed Bill C-484 and the process being followed for debate of this Bill and approved the following resolution:

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) opposes the proposed Bill C-484 (Unborn Victims of Violence Act).

This proposed bill is not consistent with existing legislation in Canada which allocates legal right only upon birth. These proposed changes to the Criminal Code require a full and lengthy debate involving the widest representation of Canadians and the appropriate parliamentary committees. It should not be hastily approved without such due process.

The CFPC strongly supports and educates its members about initiatives and programs that protect women from violence. Violence against women can result in miscarriage or fetal demise. The proposed Bill C-484 presents no evidence that it will safeguard women against violence, whether pregnant or not. Nor is there evidence that it will act as a deterrent aimed at reducing violence towards women.

The CFPC urges government to reject this proposed legislation.

The CFPC appreciates the opportunity to share this resolution with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact CFPC Associate Executive Director for Professional Affairs, Dr. Francine Lemire at 905-629-0900 ext. 419 or flemire@cfpc.ca or CFPC <mailto:emang@cfpc.ca> Manager of Health Policy, Mr. Eric Mang, at ext. 325 or emang@cfpc.ca

Sincerely,

Ruth Wilson MD CCFP FCFP
President

c.c.: Dr. Calvin Gutkin, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, CFPC
Dr. Dominique Tessier, Chair, Equity & Diversity Committee, CFPC
Dr. Francine Lemire, Associate Executive Director, Professional Affairs, CFPC
Dr. John Maxted Associate Executive Director Health & Public Policy, CFPC
Mr. Eric Mang, Health Policy Manager, CFPC
Members of CFPC's Board of Directors