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*VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL*

March 31, 2008

Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
131 Queen Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Submissions before the Committee on Bill C-484**

I am writing on behalf of the Law Union of Ontario. The Law Union of Ontario, founded in 1974, is a coalition of over 200 progressive lawyers, law students and legal workers. The Law Union's primary function is to serve as an alternative bar for legal professionals working towards social justice, but as an organization, it also takes positions in regard to proposed legislation or policies.

The Law Union is opposed to Bill C-484, or the "Unborn Victims of Crime Act." Quite simply, by establishing a category of fetal rights, the Bill compromises well-established rights afforded to pregnant women. While there is significant evidence that pregnant women are abused and killed at a higher rate than non-pregnant woman, the Law Union's position is that this Bill is not about protecting pregnant woman from abuse. Instead, it is intended to re-define the meaning of legal personhood in the Criminal Code.

Representatives from the Law Union would be pleased to make further submissions before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Karin Galldin for THE LAW UNION OF ONTARIO