

1,271 people in my riding have signed this petition which asks the House of Commons assembled to oppose further legislation for firearms acquisition and possession and to provide for strict guidelines and mandatory sentencing for use or possession of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

I concur with both of these petitions.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

**Mr. Robert Bertrand (Pontiac—Gatineau—Labelle, Lib.):** Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I would like to present three petitions on behalf of constituents of Shawville, Quebec dealing with social issues.

In the first two, petitioners pray that Parliament not amend the Canadian Human Rights Act or the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in any way that would tend to indicate societal approval of same sex relationships or of homosexuality including amending the Canadian Human Rights Act to include in the prohibited grounds of discrimination the undefined phrase sexual orientation.

#### ABORTION

**Mr. Robert Bertrand (Pontiac—Gatineau—Labelle, Lib.):** Madam Speaker, in the third and final petition the petitioners pray that Parliament act immediately to extend protection to the unborn child by amending the Criminal Code to extend the same protection enjoyed by born human beings to unborn human beings.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

**Mr. Jim Silye (Calgary Centre, Ref.):** Madam Speaker, as part of my parliamentary duties I rise today to present four petitions to the House.

The first is on behalf of Mr. Michael Dobbin and T.S. Symington who along with 82 other Calgaryans call on Parliament to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to protect individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The second petition is on behalf of Mr. Robert McNutt who along with 36 other Canadians calls on Parliament to prohibit discrimination the basis of sexual orientation and to adopt all necessary measures to recognize the full equality of same sex relationships in federal law.

#### THE FAMILY

**Mr. Jim Silye (Calgary Centre, Ref.):** The third petition, Madam Speaker, represents the opposing view on sexual orientation as 55 Albertans call on Parliament to oppose any legislation that would directly or indirectly redefine the family.

• (1525)

The fourth and final petition also relates to the subject of families, as 34 Calgary and area residents call on the government to amend the Income Tax Act to provide a child care expense deduction to all families and not just those using outside receipted child care.

#### Routine Proceedings

I will continue to present all petitions that are sent to me by constituents of Calgary Centre regardless of my personal or political views on the subject.

#### YOUNG OFFENDERS

**Mr. Bob Ringma (Nanaimo—Cowichan, Ref.):** Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I am pleased to present a petition with 16,300 signatures.

This petition was collected by a constituent, Mr. Bernard Castet, whose son was murdered by two young offenders. The petition asks for amendments to the Young Offenders Act stating anyone committing a crime of violence will be tried in adult court if he or she is 14 years of age or older.

#### GUN CONTROL

**Mr. Bob Ringma (Nanaimo—Cowichan, Ref.):** Madam Speaker, the second petition is much smaller. It calls on Parliament to not enact any further firearms legislation.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park, Lib.):** Madam Speaker, I have three petitions to table today. The first two pertain to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The petitioners call on Parliament to put an end to discriminatory treatment in Canada of gay and lesbian citizens and their familial relationships by amending federal legislation that currently allows unequal treatment, including an amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

I have explained to the petitioners my disagreement with sections of their petition, but I feel it is their right to have me table it in the House on their behalf.

#### ABORTION

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park, Lib.):** Madam Speaker, the third petition is a little more complicated. I will not go through the whole petition itself.

The petitioners claim it is clear that in the languages of Parliament and Canada there is evidence that the unborn human foetus from fertilization onward has recognition as an individual and also is included in "everyone"; whereas the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms applies to the Parliament and Government of Canada and article VII guarantees to everyone the right to life and security of the person and article XV(1) states that every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law.

The petitioners call on Parliament to urge the government to recognize the unborn foetus from fertilization onward as an entity separate from the mother and to prepare a response to this petition which identifies the formal parliamentary process which selected the response of Petition No. 3510130, which I tabled last year, as the sole basis for the government's position