

Petitions

[English]

PETITIONS

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition which has been duly certified by the Table. In it the petitioners state that the federal Government's proposal to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and severely restrict the ability of the average Canadian to buy necessary prescription drugs. The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 137 people from the cities of Ottawa, Hull, Kirkland Lake and others. They state that the proposed measure of the Government will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. They state that the federal Government's proposal will result in higher costs to provincial Government drug plans. They call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106 I have the duty and pleasure to present a petition to the House signed by citizens living in a number of locations in Saskatchewan, places such as Wishart, Bankend, Invermay, Rose Valley, Kelliher, Fosston, Margo, Mozart, and even a place called Leslie. The petitioners humbly pray and petition the House to reject proposals to amend the Patent Act which would increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I too have the honour of presenting a petition from a significant number of Canadians who are extremely concerned about the changes to the Patent Act which will inevitably increase prescription drug prices and give a much greater degree of control over prices to the multinational drug companies, inevitably allowing them to constitute a monopoly in the field of drug prices. They humbly beg the House to reject the proposed legislation.

● (1210)

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, the attached petition has been certified correct in form and content. The petitioners from the communities of Flin-Flon, Gillam, Thompson and Herb Lake Landing express their concern with the federal Government's commitment to change the Canada Patent Act in such a way that it will hurt those Canadians who are required to purchase prescription drugs on an ongoing basis and who are concerned that this is yet another example of the Canadian Government giving concessions to the United States at the expense of average Canadians as a result of free trade negotiations.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition on the same subject from a number of petitioners from Ontario including residents of Hamilton, Burlington, Stoney Creek, Dundas and other parts of southern Ontario. The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the proposal to change the Patent Act which would raise the cost of prescription drugs and would hurt many Canadians, and they are also concerned that they are being made a part of concessions to the United States in free trade negotiations.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by a large number of residents of Semans, Saskatchewan, who call upon the Government to reject its proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians very significantly and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. The petitioners are very concerned that the proposals of the federal Government will as well result in higher costs to provincial Government drug plans.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 106, it is my privilege and responsibility to present a petition signed by a good number of Canadians concerning the proposed legislation dealing with changes to the Patent Act. They feel that this legislation will result in higher drug costs both for themselves and for provincial drug plans and they are very concerned that this is one more example of the Canadian Government giving concessions to the United States at the expense of ordinary Canadians. They therefore call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition which, in accordance with Standing Order 106, has been found correct by the Clerk of Petitions. The petition comes from a number of Canadian residents of Brampton, Kitchener, Waterloo, Stoney Creek, Hamilton, Burlington, Sudbury, London, Alliston and Pickering. The petitioners are concerned that the Government's proposal to change the Patent Act will cause drug prices to become much higher in the years ahead and will hurt those who are on limited incomes and dependent upon drugs, will raise the costs to provincial Government plans and will hurt the health of the Canadian people. Therefore, they humbly request Parliament to reject the proposals of the Government and to stop this increase in drug prices.

[Translation]

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition concerning the Patent Act from residents of my constituency who want to present their concerns to the House, namely that these amendments to the Patent Act will entail sharp increases in drug prices for ordinary Canadians.