

Petitions

Therefore, they are asking the Government to reconsider its decision to proceed with this legislation.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by several dozen residents of Duncan, British Columbia, calling upon the Government to revoke the proposed changes to the Patent Act because, if it goes ahead, it will of course directly affect all Canadians who are not protected by private or government medicare programs.

The petitioners also suggest that the federal Government's proposals will raise the cost of already high provincial health care programs.

I have a similar petition from Waterford, Ontario, that great tomato-growing area, and the petition is also signed by people from Simcoe, Vanessa, Windham Centre, Nanticoke and Port Dover where there are the world's greatest perch.

This particular petition calls on the Government to back off from the patent legislation because the petitioners believe that the monopoly granted to pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition and will result in an increase in drug costs and prices and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs.

I have a similar petition from several dozen residents of Digby, Nova Scotia, and from residents of Vilna and Redwater in Alberta who have called upon the Government to back off from the patent changes because the petitioners believe that the proposed changes are another example of the Canadian Government's concession in the free trade negotiations with the United States at the expense of every-day Canadians.

These are some of the people who have signed petitions and there will no doubt be more petitions coming in the future.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have five petitions that were examined by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 106 and which meet the requirements of the Standing Orders.

The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right to present a grievance common to your petitioners humbly sheweth that the monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from cheaper generic drugs and will result in an increase in the price of drugs for Canadian consumers and severely restrict the ability of many Canadians to purchase the drugs they need; that the proposed changes in the Patent Act will directly affect all Canadians who are not protected by Government or private medicare programs; that the Government's proposals will raise the already high cost of provincial health care programs; and that the proposed changes in the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Government's concessions to the free trade negotiations with the United States, at the expense of the average consumer.

Wherefore, the undersigned your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

[*English*]

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present eight petitions signed by hundreds of residents of the City of Winnipeg who say that the proposed Bill C-22 will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. They say the federal government proposals will result in higher costs for provincial government drug plans.

● (1140)

Therefore, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

I have another petition on the same subject signed by residents of a number of towns in Manitoba, including Inwood, Teulon, Balmoral and Poplarfield. They say the federal Government's proposals to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs.

The proposed changes are another example of the Canadian Government's concessions to the U.S. at the expense of average Canadians in the free trade negotiations. They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition signed by residents of British Columbia.

Whereas the most recent figures indicate almost all fishermen in Canada depend upon unemployment insurance to survive the long winter months, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to ensure that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) rejects any recommendation that will deprive fishermen of their right to collect unemployment insurance; and to enter into consultations with representatives of fishermen in Canada in order to improve the program offered to fishermen.

RIGHT TO LIFE OF UNBORN—PROTECTION OF CHARTER OF
RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Mr. W. R. Bud Jardine (Northumberland—Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present petitions on behalf of the New Brunswick Right to Life Association, Miramichi Branch, calling upon Parliament to support Motion M-37 which calls for the protection of unborn babies under the Charter of Rights.