I, for one, have a tremendous belief and faith in Canadian women. They will and always have made the best and right decision respecting their reproductive choice. This Parliament has no right to think that it can make a more competent and better decision.

This bill which recriminalizes abortion is an attempt to please anti-choice people and, like most appeasements, it simply creates more problems than it solves. It is not a law designed for women or to protect women's rights or dignity. It is not even a law that is designed to somehow protect or bow to the rights of the foetus. This law is simply a law designed by lawyers for lawyers. One can almost hear the lawyers saying: "Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to court we go," because that is what this bill is going to do. It is going to rebring the matter both on a constitutional basis and on a case-by-case basis back before the courts. It will expose women, their personal lives, their struggles, their agonizing decisions to the public. It should not be allowed to happen.

I also want to talk a bit about who in fact is going to be affected by this legislation. My background is in social services and health care. I have worked with the poor. I have worked with teenage street kids, and the disadvantaged. I can remember when abortion was not legal. I have known poor women, disadvantaged women who have died seeking illegal abortions.

I want to tell you that any and all attempts to restrict abortions affect only poor women, women who are disadvantaged, young teenage women and women living in isolated areas. Even before abortion was legal in this country, wealthy women always could get abortions. They could go to another country. They knew medical practitioners who were willing to perform abortions, or to do D and Cs on the pretext that they were doing some type of a medical examination. Wealthy, powerful women have always been able to get abortions.

We in Canada had the classic case of sanctimonious hypocrisy when a former member of this House, the member from the Yukon, spoke partially against allowing women to have an abortion while at the same time he was paying for a woman to go to the United States to have an abortion. It has always been this way. The wealthy and the powerful will obtain abortions based on their wishes, their needs, their desires, their choices.

Canadian women can go across the border from Vancouver to Seattle, from Winnipeg to St. Paul, from Toronto to Buffalo. Those who have money and power are not going to be affected by this or any other abortion legislation. However, women who are poor, who cannot afford to travel, young women in particular who are both poor and powerless, and do not know the system and have no financial resources on knowledge, are the ones who are going to be restricted. Women in isolated and remote areas are the ones who will suffer.

This bill also falls short in that it does not do a number of the things that this government should be doing. This bill will not ensure women the right to access to full medical care, including abortions. We must remember that Prince Edward Island allows no abortion, Newfoundland allows almost none, and many areas in British Columbia also restrict abortions. The government should be ensuring through the Health Act that its program criteria, which includes such things as comprehensiveness, universality and accessibility are enforced.

The Health Act universality is defined as "the health care insurance plan of the province must entitle 100 per cent of all insured person of the province to insured health services, provided for by the plan". The government should enforce this immediately. Accessibility, in terms of health services, is defined on uniform terms of conditions on a basis that does not impede or preclude, either directly or indirectly, access to those services. The government could be initiating legislation and governmental actions that would assure women right across Canada that they have full access to all types of medical care, including care to terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

There are other things that the government should be doing which relate to family planning. I strenuously object to people who are opposed to such things as abortion. They are also the ones who are opposed to family planning. They are the ones who are responsible for a cut-back in family planning funds from 1984 to the present. In fact, going back further, this started under the previous Liberal government. In 1979 there was $447,000 being spent on family planning. In 1984 this was reduced to $200,000. By 1988 it was reduced to $139,000. The government thinks it should be congratulated for