

Routine Proceedings

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The petition draws the attention of the House to the following: That thousands of Canadian senior citizens live below the poverty line; that over 80 per cent of single women over the age of 65 years of age live in poverty; that the 37 cent increase in old age security pensions in 1992 is inadequate to meet the needs of many Canadian seniors; that it is desirable for all Canadians to provide senior citizens with the necessary support to live their lives as independently as possible.

Therefore the petitioners call upon Parliament to urge the government to ensure that Canadian old age security pensions are sufficient to meet the basic needs of Canadian senior citizens.

YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition certified pursuant to Standing Order 36 and it is signed by many residents of Calgary and other areas of Alberta.

These petitioners, in memory of Ryan Garrioch, draw to the attention of Parliament the following: That the majority of Canadians support equal treatment of criminal offenders but with legislated age shelters from criminal law for very young adolescents and that chapter 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees equality rights.

Therefore the petitioners request that Parliament revise the laws of Canada to replace the Young Offenders Act with an updated juvenile delinquents act with a lowered maximum age of 13.

BREAST CANCER

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to have the opportunity pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of many people from my riding.

They make the statement that every day 12 Canadian women die of breast cancer and this year 5,000 women will die of it. They expect the numbers to increase.

They are asking for new research dollars to find the cause and cure for breast cancer. They are asking the government to develop partnerships with health care industries, university researchers, service providers and government agencies.

They are asking that the government put this as a policy priority and are hoping this will advance soon.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present petitions which are signed by over 500 people from my riding of New Westminster—Burnaby, from the lower mainland area of Vancouver, Ontario, Montreal, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, from virtually every region of the country.

This petition says that since the goods and services tax is applied to feminine sanitary products such as tampons and pads, and since these products are necessities for women between puberty and menopause, and since the government has decided that the goods and services tax should not apply to certain foods because they are necessities, the petitioners call on Parliament to consider removing the goods and services tax from women's sanitary products.

JANA AND LEONARD ZRNIC

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36.

This petition is of particular concern to me for the following reasons. Two Canadian citizens have been held in prison in San José, Costa Rica for the past 40 months without trial.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to make a formal request of the Government of Costa Rica to act within the boundaries of its constitution and as a member of the International Human Rights Commission to proceed with the trial for the Canadian citizens, Jana Zrnic and Leonard Zrnic. Jana Zrnic's sister, Roni Arseneault, is a constituent of mine. I am pleased and ask Parliament to follow up with this petition.

NATIONAL REFERENDUM

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): The second petition I wish to present pursuant to Standing Order 36 is in relation to the prospect of a referendum.

The 36 petitioners call upon Parliament to accept a referendum of the people binding upon Parliament to accept or reject constitutional amendments with two stipulations, a majority vote of the total votes cast in the whole of Canada, together with a majority vote in the majority of provinces with the territories being given the status of one province.