

Routine Proceedings

The petitioners also note that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees all people the right to protection against discrimination, including, as recognized by the Government of Canada, discrimination based on sexual orientation; that the courts have ordered that we consider that the Canadian Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination founded on sexual orientation; and that this act should be amended to clearly show all Canadians that Parliament is truly in favour of equality for one and for all.

• (1515)

Consequently, the petitioners would have Parliament amend the Canadian Human Rights Act in order to protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation. I would like to add that this would bring the rest of Canada up to par with Quebec, which took that step back in 1978.

[English]

VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Mrs. Jan Brown (Calgary Southeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present another petition in the course of action that has been undertaken on behalf of constituents who wish to halt the early release from prison of Robert Paul Thompson.

The petitioners are from all over Alberta and are concerned about making our streets safer for our citizens. They are opposed to the current practice of early release of violent offenders prior to serving the full extent of their sentences.

The petitioners pray that our streets will be made safer for law-abiding citizens and the families of the victims of convicted murders.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. John Murphy (Annapolis Valley—Hants, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to present a petition signed by constituents of Annapolis Valley—Hants.

The petitioners call on Parliament to put an end to discriminatory treatment in Canada by amending the human rights act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound—Muskoka, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition from a large number of my constituents on Bill C-68 respecting firearms.

The petitioners believe that the legislation does not put enough emphasis on controlling those who illegally use firearms, whereas it puts too many controls on individuals who legally use firearms. In particular, the petitioners do not believe it is appropriate to introduce mandatory and universal registration.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Ms. Paddy Torsney (Burlington, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present some 500 signatures of petitioners who pray that Parliament will ensure that the present provisions of the Criminal Code prohibiting assisted suicide are enforced vigorously, and that Parliament will make no changes in the law that would sanction or allow the aiding or abetting of suicide or active or passive euthanasia.

VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops, NDP): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of a number of people who point out that women and children are becoming increasingly fearful of walking on our streets and in our neighbourhoods. The petitioners believe that many violent sex offenders are being paroled prematurely and are being released without proper treatment and rehabilitation.

They simply ask the Minister of Justice to take whatever steps are necessary to amend Canada's Criminal Code and parole system to ensure that safety and peace are returned to our neighbourhoods.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition with respect to Bill C-68 that is signed by many members of my constituency.

The petitioners state that the proposed gun control legislation by the federal government is not directed at the criminals causing unrest but rather at innocent sportsmen, hunters and gun collectors, and that the problem with criminals using illegal guns for crime is a critical issue that must be addressed, especially in Canada's large urban centres.

Therefore the petitioners request that the current proposed federal gun measures be withdrawn and that they be replaced with measures that deal directly with criminal offenders.

YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to present two petitions to the House today. The first one deals with the Young Offenders Act.

The petitioners recognize the serious flaws within the Young Offenders Act. They call on the Government of Canada to make some serious changes to the act, including the lowering of the age limits which define a young offender to include children between the ages of 10 and 15.

They also call on the government to amend the act to allow for the publication of the names of young offenders after a second indictable offence.