

Routine Proceedings

SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to present a petition signed by 351 residents of Kingston and the Islands. The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject any reduction of social benefits for seniors in any form, including deindexing or means testing.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Chuck Strahl (Fraser Valley East, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present a petition today, mostly signed by members of the Chilliwack Fish and Game Protective Association in my riding. They are concerned that the proposed gun legislation being put forward by the Minister of Justice is excessively bureaucratic, will be extremely costly and they believe will be totally ineffective.

They ask Parliament to reject this legislative proposal and to direct the Minister of Justice to reconsider this approach toward coercive gun control. I agree with their sentiments.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Charlie Penson (Peace River, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I have before me three petitions today from people in the Peace River riding.

The first one deals with the inclusion of the undefined phrase of sexual orientation in the human rights code. The petitioners request that Parliament not amend the human rights code that would change in any way and indicate society's approval for same sex relationships or homosexuality.

The petitioners feel that the majority of Canadians believe the privileges which society accords to heterosexual couples should not be extended to same sex relationships. I agree with their petition.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Mr. Charlie Penson (Peace River, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions which have been signed by 148 members in my riding dealing with the subject of doctor assisted suicide and euthanasia.

The petitioners request that the present provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada prohibiting assisted suicide be enforced and that the sanctity of human life be respected. The petitioners also ask that Parliament not repeal or amend section 241 of the Criminal Code in any way and thus protect the most vulnerable members of our community. I concur with them.

GRANDPARENTS RIGHTS

Mr. John Williams (St. Albert, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of 93 Canadians.

The petitioners request that Parliament amend the Divorce Act to include a provision similar to article 611 of the Quebec

Civil Code. It states that in no case may the father or mother without serious cause place obstacles between the child and the grandparents and that failing agreement between the parties the modalities of the relations are settled by the court.

They also request an amendment to the Divorce Act that would give a grandparent who is granted access to a child the right to make inquiries and to be given information as to the health, education and welfare of the child.

I am pleased to state that I am happy to endorse the contents of this petition.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition today on behalf of the constituents of Simcoe Centre.

The petitioners request that the Government of Canada not amend the human rights act to include the phrase "sexual orientation". The petitioners are concerned about including the undefined phrase of sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act. Refusing to define the statement leaves interpretation open to the courts, a very dangerous precedent to set. Parliament has a responsibility to Canadians to ensure that legislation cannot be misinterpreted.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Mr. Ted White (North Vancouver, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of Don Petersen and 27 others.

• (1530)

The petitioners draw the attention of the House to the following. Whereas the majority of Canadians are law-abiding citizens who respect the law; whereas the majority of Canadians respect the sanctity of human life; whereas the majority of Canadians believe that physicians in Canada should be working to save lives, not to end them, the petitioners pray that Parliament ensure that the present provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada prohibiting assisted suicide be enforced vigorously and that Parliament make no changes in the law which would sanction or allow the aiding or abetting of suicide or active or passive euthanasia.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway, NDP): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a number of petitions.

First, I have a petition which is signed by residents of a number of communities in British Columbia, including the Fraser Valley. The petitioners draw the attention of the House to the fact that the current Criminal Code denies people who are suffering from terminal or irreversible debilitating illness the right to choose freely and voluntarily to end their lives with the assistance of a physician.