

Lesson 1

Madam Ambrose,

Do you know that in 1966, backroom abortions were the major cause for the hospitalization of Canadian women ¹?

This is one of the reasons why I am pro-choice. To be pro-choice is to allow women the power to choose -- or to choose not -- to have children. It is to offer them options, and among these options is universal access to free and safe abortions.

I'm sharing this information with you now in light of your vote for motion M-312 which, if it had been adopted, would have opened the door to the criminalization of abortion, the prohibition of certain kinds of contraception, and the surveillance of the behavior of pregnant women.

I also hope this information will help you best carry out your mandate as Minister for Status of Women Canada - a responsibility that involves representing and defending the rights of women - and will avoid all future misunderstandings.

Best regards,

(your name)

¹ The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that in 1966 abortion was the major cause of hospitalisation for women with 45,482 admissions » (our translation). Louise Desmarais, 2010, La mobilisation politique et sociale autour de la question du droit des femmes à l'avortement, présentation au colloque de l'INRS - Urbanisation Culture Société, february 3rd.