

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

21-22 November 2023

Item 5-N

Canadian Conference-Catholic
2500 Don Reid Dr
Ottawa, ON K1H2J2



Arnold Viersen, MP
Peace River-Westlock

October 12, 2023

Dear Canadian Conference-Catholic,

Since being elected, I have worked to fight against the sexual exploitation of children. In 2016, I introduced Motion M-47, urging the Health Committee to investigate the impact of violent and degrading pornography on children and adults.

Motion-47 was adopted and during the Health Committee study, experts revealed that the average age of first exposure was 11 years of age. Further, pornography normalizes sexual violence against women and perpetuates addictive behaviors among youth. The number one recommendation from child advocates and health experts was for pornographic companies to implement meaningful age verification. It is a simple but effective method of protecting kids online.

Today I am pleased to tell you about Bill S-210 (*Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act*), spearheaded by Senator Julie Miville-Dechene. This Bill will safeguard children from the harmful effects of violent and degrading pornography by requiring companies to implement meaningful age verification measures on their websites. After successfully passing the Senate this spring, Bill S-210 will be up for debate this fall in the House of Commons, sponsored by MP Karen Vecchio.

Bill S-210 is in the final stages of becoming law and we need support from as many Members of Parliament as possible to ensure its successful passage. Bill S-210 represents a critical step forward in protecting our children from the perils of an increasingly dangerous online world by ensuring that companies do not allow children to access pornography.

I humbly request your assistance in this endeavor. Here's how you can help:

1. Gather 50 signatures using the attached petition.
2. Arrange a meeting with your Member of Parliament to discuss the significance of Bill S-210.
3. Encourage your Member of Parliament to present the petition to the House of Commons.
4. Request your Member of Parliament to cast a vote in favour of Bill S-210.

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Ottawa Office

Room 1070, The Valour Building
The House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Phone: 613-996-1783



Arnold.Viersen@parl.gc.ca
www.mparnold.ca

Alberta Office

PO Box 4458
5124 50 Street
Barrhead, AB T7N 1A3
Phone: 780-305-0340
Toll Free: 1-800-667-8450

