



Hon. Candice Bergen, P.C.

Member of Parliament for Portage—Lisgar

Députée de Portage—Lisgar

August 14, 2017

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me regarding proposed changes to Bill C-51. I always appreciate hearing from my constituents. Your thoughts are appreciated and taken into consideration.

I am deeply disturbed that Justin Trudeau is proposing to repeal Section 176 of the Criminal Code. All Canadians should have the protection to practise their religion and faith. To quote former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, "I am a Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong...." When the Canadian Bill of Rights was written, the freedom for worship was an integral part. It was then reaffirmed through the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The removal of protections from those practising their religion sets a very dangerous precedent.

The changes to Section 176 (b) are particularly concerning. It removes the specific protection for a member of the clergy from being assaulted prior to conducting a religious service. In a time where attacks on religious communities are increasing, protections are necessary. I, along with my Conservative colleagues call upon the Liberal Government to stand up for the democratic rights of Canadians and support this fundamental freedom.

Again, thank you for contacting me. If I can be of any further assistance to you on this or any other matter, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Hon. Candice Bergen, P.C.
Conservative House Leader
MP for Portage-Lisgar

House of Commons

507 Wellington
OTTAWA, ON K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-9511
Fax: 613-947-0313
Email: candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca

Constituency

Unit E, 886 Thornhill Street
MORDEN, MB R6M 2E1
Tel.: 204-822-7440
Fax: 204-822-7445
Email: info@candicebergen.ca

Chambre des communes

507 Wellington
OTTAWA (ON) K1A 0A6
Tél.: 613-995-9511
Télééc.: 613-947-0313
courriel: candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca

Circonscription

Pièce E, 886, rue Thornhill
MORDEN (MB) R6M 2E1
Tél.: 204-822-7440
Télééc.: 204-822-7445
courriel: info@candicebergen.ca