



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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August 15, 2017

Dear Minister Wilson-Raybould,

In light of the terrible tragedy involving Constable David Wynn and Auxiliary Constable Derek Bond, there is an undeniable need for reforms to our justice system to ensure that this can never happen again.

The House recently debated Bill S-217, which was a proposed remedy to ensure that this tragedy will not be repeated. Although we fully recognize the bill's noble intentions of protecting public safety, we felt the proposals would lead to complications in an already over-burdened justice system, which would be counter-productive.

During the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights' study of S-217, we were confronted with the reality that the bill's provisions would augment the burden of proof that prosecutors would need to meet at bail hearings, which could lead to more defendants being released on bail, not less.

It would have also created mini-trials at bail hearings, further slowing down an already clogged justice system, which could lead to even more serious charges being either stayed or withdrawn in light of the Supreme Court's Jordan decision.

While the Conservatives were in government, they made deep cuts to the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC), which have not been restored. The criminal database backlog will not end until 2018, of which prosecutors, judges, and police say hinders their ability to administer justice.

The federal government has great resources to deal with issues that this private member's bill could not. Minister, we voted to not further proceed with Bill S-217, but we still strongly support the spirit of bill. We ask that you seize this issue with the utmost seriousness that it deserves and ensure that mechanisms are in place to ensure the courts always receive the proper information of the accused's criminal history.

The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights made two recommendations in a letter that accompanied the report on S-217, and we sincerely hope that you and your colleague, the Minister of Public Safety, will act swiftly on those recommendations and honour the memory of Constable David Wynn with concrete actions.

Sincerely,



Alistair MacGregor, MP
NDP Critic for Justice and Attorney General



Matthew Dubé, MP
NDP Critic for Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness