
News Release

February 16, 2012

MP Brian Storseth receives ovation in House of Commons with the passage of Bill C-304

OTTAWA – Member of Parliament Brian Storseth was honoured by the round of applause that followed the passage of Bill C-304 in its second reading in the House of Commons on February 15.

Bill C-304 *Protecting Freedom* calls for the repeal of Section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) in order to protect our fundamental right to freedom of speech. If Section 13 is successfully repealed, all threatening acts of hate messaging will be handled through the Criminal Code of Canada – a system based upon true democratic principles, unlike that of Section 13. Under Section 13, an accused individual does not have the right to: a speedy trial, an attorney, face their accuser, see evidence against them, or the ability to recover costs should the charges be dropped; and truth and intent are not allowable defences.

MP Brian Storseth has been working on this issue since 2008, when he motioned for the review of Section 13 and the potential impacts of repealing it. Storseth commented on February 15's vote, stating that "this is a big step forward to ensuring that a proper balance is maintained when determining justifiable limitations on freedom of expression in our country. Hate speech is a serious issue and should be handled through the Criminal Code of Canada, not a quasi-judicial system with complete disregard to our basic rights."

Storseth also commented on the results of the mail out survey on Bill C-304 distributed last month, stating that the support he has received from within the riding and nationally has been overwhelming.

Bill C-304 will now move to the Justice Committee for review. Further information on this Bill can be found at www.brianstorseth.ca/bill-c-304.

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Brian Storseth, MP

Westlock – St. Paul

Tel: (780) 614-6440

brian.storseth.c2b@parl.gc.ca