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## Anti-abortion rally held outside MPP's office



Photo by Bryon Johnson

*About a half dozen protesters demonstrated on the sidewalk outside Brampton-Springdale MPP Linda Jeffrey's office on Bovaird Drive Thursday morning. They want the government to drop abortion from the list of medical procedures covered under OHIP.*

BRAMPTON— A group of people rallied outside a Brampton MPP's office this morning to protest abortions covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).

The rally outside Brampton-Springdale MPP Linda's Jeffrey's Bovaird Drive constituency office was organized by Campaign Life Coalition's Youth division. Organizers said as many as 13 people took part in the one-hour demonstration.

Participants stood curbside holding signs that read "Kill Babies With Tax Dollars?", "Not From My Wallet", and "Defund Abortion". The pro-life organization wants the government to delist abortion as a medical procedure covered under OHIP.

Taxpayers, and taxpayers opposed to abortion in particular, should not be forced to finance abortions, the organization insisted.

"Taxpayers pay millions of dollars every year for this medically unnecessary procedure, while genuine areas of

health care are neglected," said Carter Grant, the local organizer of the Defund Abortion rally and 19-year-old Ryerson University student.

An estimated \$50 million could be spent on more doctors or nurses, the coalition argued.

There were similar rallies planned in other municipalities across Ontario today. The rallies are part of a broader national campaign. The organization has plans for rallies in Alberta, Manitoba and Nova Scotia today, followed by British Columbia, Quebec and Manitoba in the spring.

Organizers want Jeffrey and other MPPs to remove elective abortion from the list of services insured by OHIP, much like chiropractic services were delisted in 2004, they said.

Jeffrey was not in her Brampton office today, said Grant, but her staff promised to pass on the organizations's message.

