



Anti-abortion group stages protest in Timmins

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A small group of anti-abortion protesters in Timmins staged a rally outside of the office of Timmins-James Bay MPP Gilles Bisson and demanded that he bring a message to Queen's Park, asking that OHIP stop paying for abortions. The group argued that abortion is not a health care issue but a socio-economic matter.

Spokesperson Daniela Llanos Yen Chong said the crux of the issue is that thousands of Ontario residents don't get the health care services they need because the government does not have enough money.

She said OHIP funded abortions are costing Ontario taxpayers anywhere from \$30-million to \$50-million a year, based on the figure that 30,000 to 50,000 abortions are performed in Ontario each year.

"It's an open secret there are almost no abortions performed where the life of the mother is in danger," she said. "The simple truth is that abortions today are performed for convenience, as a backup birth control method."

She said the \$1,000 cost of an abortion should not be funded if the government also refuses to pay the \$50 for a PSA prostate screening test. She also mentioned that the McGuinty Liberals de-listed chiropractic services and optometry exams from OHIP.

Llanos Yen Chong presented demands to MPP Bisson who showed up at his Wilson Avenue office, about 15 minutes after the event began at 11:00 a.m.

Bisson welcomed the group, saying the great thing about Canada is that everyone has the right to legitimate protest.

Bisson listened quietly as the group read out their complaint and asked Bisson to take the issue to Queen's Park for them, and to accept a petition the group is in the process of preparing.

Bisson said he would.

"I want to be very clear with you. I have always been pro choice. I am not going to stand here and pretend that I am not," said Bisson.

"But I also respect that you have a different view on that. As for the petitions, it's not a problem. Bring them in and I will present them on your behalf." said Bisson.

