

Email sent December 2, 2021

KATHLEEN FINLAY <kathleen@zeroharmnow.com>

A PLEA FOR URGENT ACTION TO RESTORE GIS BENEFITS

To: "Cahill, Alana" <Alana.Cahill@parl.gc.ca>, daniel.blaikie@parl.gc.ca, Laura Tamblyn Watts <laura@canage.ca>, leah.gazan@parl.gc.ca, rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca, shelby.kramp-neuman@parl.gc.ca, isac@lao.on.ca

Cc: "Bennett, Carolyn - M.P." <carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca>, "karina.gould@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca" <karina.gould@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca>, jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca, "kamal.khera@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca" <kamal.khera@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca>, "carla.qualtrough@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca" <carla.qualtrough@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca>, "diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca" <diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca>

Bcc: "Seth, Angie" <angie.seth@bellmedia.ca>, "Favaro, Avis" <Avis.Favaro@bellmedia.ca>, vik.adhopia@cbc.ca, joe.tunney@cbc.ca, "tboyle@thestar.ca" <tboyle@thestar.ca>, mogilvie@thestar.ca, kgrant@globeandmail.com, apicard@globeandmail.com, skirkey@postmedia.com, Charelle Evelyn <cevelyn@hilltimes.com>, Samantha Wright Allen <swallen@hilltimes.com>, Kathleen Finlay <kefinlay@gmail.com>

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Is there anything else we can do, collectively or as individual advocates, to have the GIS benefits that have been taken from our most vulnerable seniors restored before the holidays? I know we've all done our part to try to right this terrible wrong. But the cold Canadian winter is fast approaching and lives are literally on the line. There are only 10 sitting

days left before parliament adjourns and does not return until the new year.

While I am grateful that the NDP acted on my suggestion [to call for an emergency debate](#), and the Conservative Party has also stood up in support of seniors on this issue, one man, the Speaker of the House of Commons, nixed that prospect. “I am not satisfied that this request meets the requirements of the Standing Orders at this time,” he ruled. With those few words, he put an end to the hopes of 90,000 low-income seniors that something might be done by parliament to help them on an urgent basis. This part of the story has never been reported in the media.

This is not just a financial issue; it is also a health imperative. Having to choose between medication and food, being forced to walk in damp weather on a slippery sidewalk instead of using a taxi or a bus, and the ever-present threat of eviction are placing too many at risk of adverse medical, and mental health, outcomes -- including depression and suicide.

As the pandemic takes yet another ominous turn, I am wondering if the health-related consequences of the GIS claw back for an already vulnerable segment of the population is the wedge point where progress might be made. Ministers of health and mental health at the provincial and federal levels, including my own MP, Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Canada’s first minister of mental health, have a critical role to play in putting things right. It is my hope that more questions from the media might help them do that.

We simply cannot allow members of the generation who contributed so much to building this country be consigned to more misery on just \$700 a month. These GIS benefits need to be restored immediately, and retroactively.

Who else do we need to connect with to make it happen?

With appreciation and Best Wishes for the Season,

Kathleen

KATHLEEN FINLAY

Founder

ZeroHarmNow.com

Kinetic compassion changing lives

ZeroHarmNow[™]
Kinetic Compassion in Action[™]



Founder & CEO, The Center for Patient Protection | The Safer Women Health Initiative
www.PatientProtection.Healthcare