

NEWS RELEASE

SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

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MPP Jones Introduces Bill to Ensure Safety of Vulnerable People in Ontario's Group Homes

(Queen's Park) –“Today I introduced a bill in the Legislature to provide vulnerable people living in Ontario's supported living residences protection from the harm of picketing,” said Sylvia Jones, Progressive Conservative Critic for Community and Social Services and MPP for Dufferin-Caledon.

During the summer of 2007, supported living residences housing the intellectually disabled across the province were targeted by striking workers. Supported people were confined to their homes or forced to leave altogether. Many neighbourhoods were disrupted by picket lines, portable bathrooms, shouting megaphones, and whistles. In some locations, this occurred at all hours of the day and night.

Jones introduced the *Protecting Vulnerable People Against Picketing Act, 2010* in the Legislature to ensure residents of supported living residences are not subjected to this frightening experience again.

“The Progressive Conservative Party and I raised concerns about this in 2008 during review of Bill 77, the *Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act*,” said Jones. “The Liberal government failed to act on the recommendations our party and Community Livings across the province. My private members bill will ensure that persons with an intellectual disability are protected in their home.”

The *Protecting Vulnerable People Against Picketing Act, 2010* has the support of many Community Living organizations across the province.

“Community Living Ontario fully supports this bill put forth by MPP Sylvia Jones,” said Keith Powell, Executive Director of Community Living Ontario. “One of the goals of Community Living is that all persons with an intellectual disability live in dignity. This bill will ensure that during labour unrest, people living in the community, with supports, will have their dignity and safety protected.”

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Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You