



## Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

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\* I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

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\* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

As the director for CCBR, the organization primarily targeted by the bylaw amendments, I feel it's essential that I clarify several facts that have been distorted or otherwise completely ignored in this discussion regarding our pro-life outreach at senior high schools in Calgary.

The first is where and how we set up our displays. The notion that we are generating a captive audience of vulnerable and unprepared children could not be further from the truth. Each month I notify Calgary Police Services as to where our displays will be held, so that they can give early warning to their school liaisons and any one else who needs to be aware of our presence. As such, schools almost always have at least a week's notice before we arrive. On top of that, our teams generally consist of 3-6 members, and we situate ourselves on public property near a single entrance to the school. This means not only do students have ~25-50 meters between us and the closest entrance, but there are almost always several other exits that they could easily use to avoid us entirely. Lastly, we only set up our displays at schools grade 9 and older, and ensure that if there is a nearby elementary school that we avoid their lunch our and are not visible to their windows.

A second point is that the students we engage are not toddlers, but rather mature minors who already engage in important conversations about climate, politics, and other current events. To say that they are not mature enough to talk about abortion but are mature enough to talk about systemic violence is nonsense. We have found

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through thousands of conversations with students that they are very intellectually and emotionally capable to engage in conversation, and as mentioned above, if they don't feel the same way, it is very easy to avoid our teams. This bylaw is all about censorship and not at all about preparing students for important conversations or helping them avoid them.