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The National Advocacy Committee  
Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign  
Comité d'action national  
Campagne de grands-mères à grands-mères



# Avis aux médias Media Advisory

For immediate release

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## **GRANNIES DISRUPT COMMITTEE HEARINGS, DEBATE TO CONTINUE THIS COMING MONDAY**

**Ottawa, 29 October 2010** — Grandmothers with the nation-wide Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign held an impromptu protest yesterday, disrupting Parliamentary committee hearings over the shameful and timid actions of the Conservative, Liberal and Bloc members of the Industry, Science and Technology Committee regarding Bill C-393, a bill to reform Canada's Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR) and make it easier for people in developing countries to get life-saving medicines. Watch a video of their demonstration here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMT--IMJQgY>.

Instead of reviewing the bill clause-by-clause with consideration of the overwhelming facts and evidence presented during public hearings that demonstrate the need for fix CAMR, these committee members chose to play politics with people's lives and some are proposing amendments that would essentially gut Bill C-393, leaving the current flawed regime unchanged and removing any prospect of using it again to supply life-saving medicines to people in need.

As a result of the grandmothers' protest, the Committee has scheduled an additional meeting in Ottawa for this coming Monday morning, November 1<sup>st</sup>, to debate the amendments further. The Committee must report back to the House of Commons by the end of the day on Monday on its study of the bill.

The Committee members threatening the bill are Marc Garneau (LIB), Peter Braid (CPC), Gordon Brown (CPC), Mike Lake (CPC), David Sweet (CPC), Dave Van Kesteren (CPC), Mike Wallace (CPC), Robert Bouchard (BQ), and Serge Cardin (BQ).

Furthermore, some MPs who oppose Bill C-393 may seek to kill even a watered-down when it returns to the House of Commons, by denying agreement to the minor procedural move of changing the sponsor of the bill. (Bill C-393 was originally introduced by former NDP MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis, who is no longer in the House of Commons, but her colleague MP Brian Masse will seek to become the new sponsor). The opponents of this bill are trying to gut it at Committee and then will seek to kill it before it gets debated and voted on in the House of Commons, because it could possibly pass. So far, both the Liberal and NDP House Leaders have provided assurances that their MPs will not defeat

this bill on a procedural technicality, but would let it proceed with a new sponsor. The position of the Conservatives and the Bloc Québécois has not yet been made clear.

It is extremely alarming to us, and to the dozens of other civil society organizations who support the bill on the basis that it will fix the current law and save lives, that the bill could die because of these politically motivated manoeuvres.

If you would like to receive regular updates about our campaign please let me know. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact **Christopher Holcroft** at **416-996-0767**.

For more information about CAMR and proposed reforms, see [www.aidslaw.ca/camr](http://www.aidslaw.ca/camr)

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