

Please accept our submission regarding “Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018”

We are opposed to the QLRC recommendations to “modernize” Qld’s Abortion laws.

Preamble

In adopting the proposed legislation, the Qld Government will be abdicating its responsibility to all Queenslanders, present and future. It will have failed in its duty of care to the citizens of this State. It will have buckled to the pressure of certain self - interest groups whose ultimate goal is to increase profits by any means.

Reasons for opposition to proposed legislation

The proposed changes to the law will facilitate the needless deaths of more unborn children than is presently the case.

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is on the increase and this legislation effectively legalises domestic violence against the vulnerable, hidden, Queenslanders in their mother’s womb.

The evidence of this will be witnessed through increased rates of domestic violence for women. As one form of violence increases through abortion, the flow on is for the women in those relationships to also be abused.

Mental Health

This is an existing issue associated with women who have experienced abortion.

An increase in women experiencing abortions will contribute to an increase in issues of Mental Health for those women.

Hypocratic Oath

A fundamentally negative change to the way the medical profession is perceived by the community. A doctor now has to be complicit to a woman’s abortion decision even if the doctor believes it is not in her best interest. It removes from the doctor, the right and duty to provide the patient with what the doctor believes to be the best medical care.

Deterioration of society/freedom of speech

A move towards a less compassionate society. With regard to exclusion zones around abortion facilities, it constitutes a great injustice when someone is prohibited by law from peacefully offering support or assistance to another based on their location. This also compromises “freedom of speech” which is part of our democratic society!

Solution

Provision for mandatory independent counselling for women and their partners before any abortion decision can be made, including ultrasound imaging of the unborn child.

Organizations which provide legitimate pregnancy counselling and support services are to be given Government assistance. N.B. Pregnancy counselling must not include referral for abortion.

Conclusion

The proposed legislation is severely flawed because it intends to provide protection to those involved in the grizzly and lucrative business of abortion, while ignoring the needs of women by failing to provide mandatory independent counselling and pregnancy support services thereby significantly limiting their range of choice. It then intends to criminalize those who would frequent the periphery of an abortion facility in order to offer support or alternatives to prospective attendees, i.e. to provide women with what they are otherwise denied.

We believe the Government should immediately investigate the sources for this callous document. It should also investigate the funding sources for various women's groups including 'Children by Choice' to establish if they have links to those providing abortion services. This document appears to have been written with a very narrow and mean spirited focus and exposes among other things, many conflicts of interest. The Government should then make public those findings and take the appropriate necessary action.

We also believe the current law, along with the two suggested solutions or something similar, would far better serve the people of Queensland.

We respectfully thank you for considering our submission.

William and Sandra Tonto

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