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Committee Secretary

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention  
Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**Submission relating to the proposed *Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018***

[REDACTED]

Let me begin with thanks to the people who made this opportunity for my voice to be heard.

Thanks too for the help given in listing on the Parliament's web site, the full text of the Bill and the Explanatory Notes, as well as the speech of the Attorney General as she introduced the Bill to the House on 22 August 2018.

From reading these documents, several matters arise which are of grave concern to me.

Firstly, the whole thrust into this extremely sensitive area of human life and death is based on "policy objectives" driven by an ideology arising out of a desire to "modernise" the law. The Explanatory Notes briefly outline that current law.

The drive to "modernise" that current law seems to me to miss this one vital objective: *protect the life of an unborn infant human being by making it a crime to deliberately end a pregnancy*. The attempt at shifting the whole question from association with criminal law to association with women's health and rights is, in my view, an attempt to sanitise this fatal outcome for the unborn infant.

Secondly, such a "modern law" if brought into operation is unlikely to produce the healthy outcomes in women it purports to support. *In the light of significant evidence of harmful outcomes for the woman concerned, the law should not be moving in any direction likely to make convenient a free-of-cost medical procedure aimed at disposing of an unborn infant from their body.*

Thirdly, it is ironic that the Parliamentary Committee considering this submission is also tasked with "Family Violence Prevention" as part of its duties. Should this "Termination of Pregnancy" Bill pass into law, it is almost certain that more family violence will result. Consider the situation where a bullying male partner has pressured a woman into engaging in behaviour from which a pregnancy results. The inconvenience of any child unwanted by that male would likely increase his applying pressure towards the woman to "get rid of it". How horrible for a woman who may want to keep the child, yet lives in fear of her partner?

Fourthly, if this proposed law comes into effect, medical practitioners who are loyal to their oath to save life and thus would rather discourage any life ending request from a patient will be *forced* to refer the woman to a practitioner who is known to end unborn infant lives. It is purported in p.9 of the Explanatory Notes as a "balance" of the right of the doctor to refuse with the rights of the woman to health and autonomy. *Such an outcome ignores the right of unborn child to life. Surely as the most vulnerable party in this scenario, the rights of the unborn child must take precedence.* To act in any other way is unworthy of civilised society.

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Finally, in the provisions of the proposed law, it is abundantly clear that any citizen who is rightly appalled at the operation of unborn baby removal centres is to be prevented from being within a distance of 150m from such "Termination services premises", to use the euphemism on pp11& 22 of the Explanatory Notes. Further, such a dimensioned zone is termed a "safe access zone". It is certainly not safe for the unborn baby! The proposed law will create a new offence of "prohibited conduct" that is defined as conduct towards another person reasonably likely "...to deter that person from accessing the premises." Even further, the proposed law incorporates in its Division 6: Amendment Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. The force of the new law applies to "searching without warrant" a person or a vehicle in the event of a suspicion that such a person is an offender relating to their conduct in a so called "safe access zone". Such legal provisions to me are reminiscent of past infamous totalitarian regimes.

In concluding this brief submission, may I declare that I am a male person. My wife and I have been married for 51 years. We have been blessed with four daughters and two sons, all of whom are resident voters in the State of Queensland. My wife and I are also grandparents of five grand daughters and five grandsons, three of whom have reached majority and are resident voters in this State. From my conversations with many of these adult and productive family members it is apparent that they share my concerns about the adverse impact of the proposed **Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018** should it become law in this State.

May I appeal to the Committee for a *total reconsidering of this legislation*, using as its starting objective the preservation of unborn human life. To do otherwise is to condemn us to extinction by our own hands.

Thank you.

05/09/2018