

Submission by Lyn Moffat

I previously submitted an objection to a change to abortion law in this state. That objection still stands. I have not changed my mind, and, if anything have even stronger views, since educating myself on how abortions are performed, and seeing how the wellbeing of woman and children is now under even greater threat due to the nature of this proposed bill. If the law is changed, many woman who now continue with pregnancies and go on to enjoy motherhood will be coerced by various means and for various reasons to abort their child - right up until birth!

Over thirty years ago, when I was in my early thirties, I spoke to my doctor's receptionist (she was also the doctor's wife) for the results of a pregnancy test, I was told that yes. it was positive, I was pregnant. Her next statement absolutely floored me! She asked "You are continuing with it then?" I thought to myself, "would it be that easy, if I wasn't happy about it to just get an abortion?" I decided then and there that if that was this doctor's attitude to life, then I would find another doctor, and I never went back to him.

Years before, when the issue was being publicly discussed, I, without thinking too deeply about it, thought that if a woman didn't think she could cope with motherhood, it might be ok for her to abort her baby. But once I had children of my own, my view changed completely, especially after my first child was stillborn at 36 weeks. I then knew in my heart that abortion would be killing a baby.

As a society we are shocked and saddened by the taking of life particularly where a young, innocent child is concerned. And yet somehow, some can justify and even condone the taking of the life of an unborn child simply for the convenience of the parent. Once a woman is pregnant, she knows it is a baby she is carrying. Using other terms such as foetus to make abortion sound more acceptable, does not change then end result - the taking of a human life.

To simply change the law to now make it acceptable, and in some cases mandatory, for doctors and nursing staff to perform these abortions - at any stage of pregnancy –and that is what this legislation will do - shows how low we as a society have sunk! With this new bill, even doctors who value life will be forced to participate. I fear for our future.

The physical and mental health of the patient has long been used as the "excuse" for performing these abortions. I can only say that there must be a lot of women that were suffering mental conditions when so many abortions are performed each year in Queensland. (I believe the figure is something like 25,000 abortions performed in Qld in a year, even when it is still illegal!!) I believe that having an abortion is more likely to result in mental health problems for the woman later on. I have witnessed examples of this. I am also aware of a situation where a woman felt pressured into having an abortion in order to remain in a relationship where the man involved did not want the child even though she did. The relationship failed anyway, and the woman sadly never had any other children.

Because abortion has become an “industry” women are now tested for various “birth defects” and are advised to abort their baby if there is the slightest chance of something being wrong. To me, that is another form of coercion, and often results in heartache and ongoing trauma for parents who really want a child.

As caring and humane health professionals and people, who should be protecting life, we should be looking at the many alternatives that would ensure the wellbeing of both the mother and the child. By upholding the existing legislation, regarding the unnecessary taking of life, and providing support and help for both the mother and child, no matter what the circumstances of conception, would go a long way towards showing ourselves to be a truly caring and compassionate society.

Thank you

Lyn Moffat