

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 Submission
Date: Monday, 3 September 2018 9:17:41 PM

Dear Members of the Health Committee,

Thank you your service and for your consideration of my submission.

Abortion is a multifaceted issue. As someone experienced with the culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Brisbane, my submission will focus on two aspects of this bill, the protection of the vulnerable and the democratic fundamentals of freedom of conscience and speech.

This bill presents a clear and ongoing risk to the most vulnerable in our society, unborn females of certain ethnic minority groups.

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This bill proposes to condone and import such problems into Australian society. Put simply, this bill reduces our fellow Australians from human beings of intrinsic dignity and worth to a set of features by which they will be judged for permission to be born or not. It also widens the criteria for abortion, thus exacerbating the vulnerability of women to being coerced into having an abortion.

Fundamental to human flourishing and a society's common good is the protection of its most vulnerable. As such, I ask that parliament not support this bill.

This bill also presents a clear and ongoing risk to the democratic fundamentals of freedom of conscience and speech. As someone who is familiar with individuals and families who have fled countries with political systems antithetical to the democratic principles on which Australia was founded, I am concerned with the resemblance this bill bears to the former. Namely, the coercive measures targeted at medical professions and facilities with regards to involvement in abortions and the restrictions placed on the free and peaceful conduct of all private individuals inherent in the "safe access zones" measure.

Freedom of conscience and speech are fundamental democratic principles. As such, I ask the parliament not support this bill.

Thank you again for your consideration and in advanced for not supporting this bill.

Regards,
Dr Kevin Tam.