



To the Queensland Parliament Health Committee

I am opposed to the proposed Termination of Pregnancy Bill, for the following reasons:

The Bill would allow abortion up to 22 weeks, for any reason. It would allow "abortion on demand" but according to the law in Queensland, a pre-born baby has a right to life.

This is illustrated by a recent Court case. In August, a man pleaded guilty to killing his pregnant partner.

He was sentenced to life in prison for killing the woman. He was sentenced to a second life in prison for killing the pre-born baby. Considering this, how can it be lawful for a doctor to proceed with an abortion, when both mother and pre-born baby are in good health?

The proposed Bill would allow an abortion up to full term - up to 39 weeks - if two doctors considered it was a good idea. We do not know what they are to consider. The parents may want a boy, but tests reveal the child conceived is a girl, and so they request an abortion. They could also do an abortion because the parents have made plans for an overseas holiday - because the mother is hoping for a special promotion at work, etc.

How can it be a just law to force a doctor who has a conscientious objection to abortion, except when there is a very serious medical problem, to refer a woman to another doctor, for an abortion. At times women suffer serious medical problems, because of an abortion. In a

P.T.O

2.

Large number of cases women suffer severe emotional and mental health problems, with anxiety and depression, after an abortion. Considering this how can a doctor be forced to refer a woman for an abortion, when both mother and baby are in good health? It is certainly not good medicine!

One study found that 83% of women would have carried their baby to full term, had they received support from husband, boyfriend or family. Considering this why do we plan to have an exclusion zone of 150 metres around abortion clinics. Perhaps the father of the child who had been insisting on the abortion, had changed his mind and was waiting to see his girl friend, and speak to her. A family member who knew the mother was very ~~not~~ reluctant to have an abortion, was very concerned, and realised that she could offer her some special help. Nobody should be harassed. But they ^{should} certainly be ~~free~~ free to accept a friendly offer for help outside the clinic.

I believe that women who are considering an abortion should be offered independent counselling, and should be warned of the possible emotional and psychological difficulties they could experience.

I believe that this legislation should be withdrawn, and that more help should be offered to expectant mothers.

I am

Yours sincerely
Pat Stratford