

3rd September 2018

Submission to the parliamentary committee considering the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

It is my opinion that the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 should be rejected on the following 2 grounds:

1. By including social reasons as a justification for late term abortion, the number of abortions will increase and more abortions will hurt more women.
2. It aims to remove the protection for an unborn child currently afforded under the Criminal Code 1899 sections 224, 225 and 226.

Regarding point 1, I would like to draw the committee's attention to the fact that by making abortions more available and allowing "social reasons" to be one justification for a late term abortion, the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 will lead to an increase in the number of abortions in Queensland. More abortions will hurt more women. There is overwhelming evidence about the emotional effects of abortion and the possible detrimental physical effects of abortion on women. The Louisiana Department of Health have published a comprehensive list of common health risks associated with abortions. These health risks include pelvic infection, cut or torn cervix, perforation of the uterus wall, incomplete abortion leading to complications.

[REDACTED]

If abortions are made easier to access, more women will be exposed to these unacceptable health risks.

The Louisiana Department of Health identified greater risks percentages associated with later term abortions methods such:

- Dilation and Evacuation
- Labor induction

[REDACTED]

These methods are used when abortions are sought between 14 to 23 weeks. The Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 aims to

make abortions during the 14 to 22 week time frame easier to procure. The Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 should be rejected as it poses unacceptable health risks to women.

The Louisiana Department of Health have identified that many women have had,

“serious psychological effects after their abortion, including depression, grief, anxiety, lowered self-esteem, regret, attachment, flashbacks and substance abuse.”

[REDACTED]

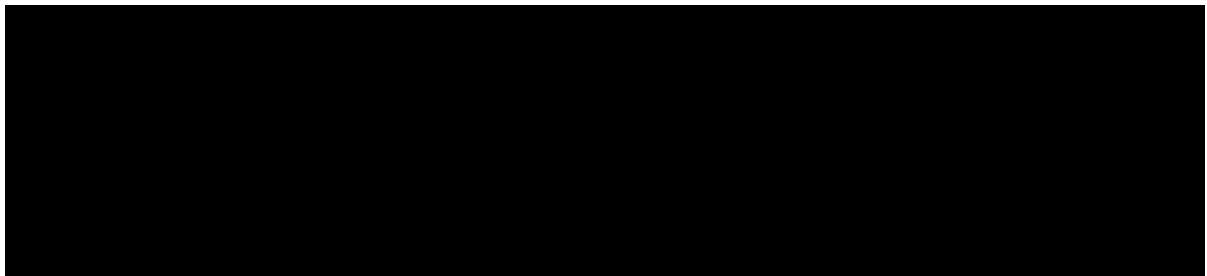
These physical and emotional risks are unacceptable for Queensland women and the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 should be rejected based on these health findings.

Regarding point 2, I would like to draw the committee’s attention to the legal fact that to end a human life, that would otherwise continue to exist, is a criminal offence. Our society has long held that it is a criminal act to take the life of another human, even when that life is very small. That is evident in the wording of the Queensland Criminal Code 1899 sections 224:

“Any person who, with intent to procure the miscarriage of a woman, whether she is or is not with child, unlawfully administers to her or causes her to take any poison or other noxious thing, or uses any force of any kind, or uses any other means whatever, is guilty of a crime, and is liable to imprisonment for 14 years.”

[REDACTED]

The lives of unborn children have long been protected by sections 224, 225 and 226 of the Queensland Criminal Code 1899. The Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 needs to be rejected as it aims to repeal sections 224, 225 and 226 from the Queensland Criminal Code 1899. This will remove the protection for an unborn child currently afforded under the Criminal Code 1899.



As a father of 6 children, I ask this committee to take seriously the health risks associated with women having abortions and to protect the lives of unborn Queensland babies by rejecting The Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018.

Yours sincerely

Nathan Williams

