

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission for qld abortion law review  
**Date:** Monday, 3 September 2018 12:30:45 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you to raise concerns with the proposed abortion laws the government will be debating this October. I find this laws are extremely disturbing and show a devaluation of human life and ask that you review them and make changes to protect women and unborn children.

My first problem with the laws is that a termination can be provided up to 22 weeks with no reason given. I am not sure why it is ok to kill an unborn child up to this week gestation. If you consider the attached information taken from a government parenting site - the unborn child is referred to as a "baby" and their genetic make up is the same as that of a born human - heart beat, brain, skin cells, finger prints, lungs, kidneys, etc etc - why would we allow this life to be killed when under our law a human who has been born (with all the same genetic and cellular components) cannot be terminated because we call that murder? The idea of killing a fetus because it might cause the mother inconveniences in the future is a terrible one. Of course having a child causes inconveniences - whether it is planned or not, but we can't just kill people who inconvenience us.

My next issue is that the proposed laws don't seem to provide any help for a woman who has found herself with an unwanted pregnancy. Clearly a woman in this situation is feeling trapped. They may fear what a pregnancy/baby will mean in terms of their future, they may fear shame in their community, feel alone and unsupported. Wouldn't a more humane approach be to reduce barriers for women - to provide more pregnancy support services, to provide mentoring to women who don't feel they could be a mother, and to have a safe place to talk about all these options? A particular worrying thing about the laws being proposed is that a woman doesn't have to receive any counselling before having an abortion - this means they may be more easily pressured into the decision by a parent or partner and have no one to check that before the procedure is done. We must have safe guards in place so vulnerable women aren't being driven to do something against their will. I don't believe this law is very supportive of women in this situation. Statistics show that many women actually regret their abortions and suffer negative mental health consequences as a result - so as well as abortions hurting unborn children, they may also be harming women - a law that makes medical or surgical abortion more readily available does not seem like the answer. I believe it devalues the life of the woman and obviously the life of the unborn baby.

It doesn't seem fair to force a woman to have a baby when she feels like she has no support available and doesn't want a child or thinks it will cause havoc to her own mental or physical health - but perhaps the best approach isn't killing the baby. The best and most life affirming option (and probably most expensive too) would be working with the woman and providing her with the support she needs to be a great mother (by either helping her raise the child herself, or by helping her find another to raise the child on her behalf).

Thank you for your time. Please consider these points as you debate this law in October.

Kind regards  
Madeleine Smart





