

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: I do not support the proposed abortion reform
Date: Saturday, 1 September 2018 7:31:43 AM

Re: I do not support the proposed abortion reform

Dear Communities Health,

As a woman, I believe women have complete rights over their own bodies. Absolutely. Do women's choices matter? Absolutely. Is it important that we feel heard? Absolutely. The question is, do women (or anyone else for that matter) have the right to decide who lives and who dies? It's important that we get the right answer to this, for it is the fundamental question at the heart of the right-to-life vs reproductive-rights-for-women-debate. It's important to keep in mind that the goal of all public policy. should be to protect and empower all members of the community. Logic tells me that each of us must have life before any other right or empowerment can be of benefit. As a believer in basic human rights for all, ie. not from a lack of compassion, love or respect for women in a dire predicaments, is that the state has a moral duty to protect the lives of all its citizens, including its unborn ones, and this right supercedes any other right, unless the life of the mother is at stake. For in this instance, and in this instance alone, her right to life is also at stake. I believe the state should not legislate them out of existence and neither should it give mothers - or anyone else - the right to do so. In 2016 the ABC reported a "Rise in Queensland babies surviving late-term abortions." The article quoted a newly released report in which it was revealed that in 2015, 27 babies aborted after five months gestation, survived the abortion but were left to die rather than given life-saving treatment - though I certainly hope they were given some sort of pain-relieving comfort as they died. Any live birth survivor should show us that what is being aborted is not just a mass of cells and tissues but a human baby. Knowing this, how can we continue to act as if these tiny humans have no rights at all while the adults in the room have all the rights? At one stage we may have been able to claim ignorance. But not now. Not with so much scientific knowledge and experience.

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[REDACTED] America has beened partial birth late term abortions, so why is it okay for Aussie babies to undergo death in such a way? Getting back to the 27 babies who survived the abortion procedulre What differentiated whether that baby lived or died, was purely the choice of the mother. A wanted baby, born at that age, maybe even in the same hospital, is given all the medical care and attention modern medicines has at its disposal and almost always lives. So we are not talking about the viability of the baby here, nor of its humanness, it lives or dies at the choice of someone else. My nursing friends tell me they have to cope with the emotional craziness of the above sistuations, ie. a baby being left to die in one part of the hospital while a baby the same age is saved. It can really mess with their minds. No-one should be forced to be in an environment where they are not allowed to help a dying human being but must let it suffer and die, alone and unaided. Labour's proposed legislation is attempting to be kind to women and I appreciate that, but what about the baby woman (or man) yet to be born? I used to be pro-choice until someone challenged me on this. After looking into it, I can in no way support legislation like this and I ask that you too, re-examine this issue again with fresh eyes. Yours Sincerely, Geraldine Paterson babies-of-late-terminations-left-to-die-without-care Article by Josh Bavas, updated 16 June 2016.

Sincerely,
Geraldine Paterson

