

**Subject:**

Termination of Pregnancy Bill

Date:

Tuesday, 4 September 2018 6:05:15 PM

Dear Committee

I am a Queensland voter living in Cairns and I am writing to you regarding the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 set to be heard before parliament. This bill seeks to totally legalise abortion by amending the Queensland Criminal Code to:

Remove the following sections: s224 – Attempts to procure abortion, s225 The Like by women with child and s226 – Supplying drugs or instruments to procure abortion.

Amend s313 – Killing an unborn child by adding a caveat to this section allowing unborn children to be killed by termination

It is very rare for me to write to members of parliament but I am so strongly about this subject that I feel compelled, as a voter, to write to you to urge you to vote against this bill.

Being a male, many would argue that I have no right to proffer my views on this bill. However, I am a father of two and have recently discovered my wife is again pregnant (an unplanned pregnancy) so I feel I am qualified to offer some remarks. Before discovering my wife was pregnant, I had many plans and goals which will now be thrown into disarray due to the arrival of my new child. However, my wife and I will gladly re-prioritise these plans and re-organise our life to take responsibility for this child and provide the love and care it needs. And I think people in a similar situation should be responsible and do the same rather than having the option of terminating where there is not good reason.

I believe that the lives of unborn children are most precious and vulnerable. These lives are ones that need the protections afforded to them by the sections of the s224-226 of the Criminal Code.

Abortion involves the snuffing out of the precious lives of these unborn children. Any abortion is a tragedy and this is why if this act is performed, it should only be done where the gravest of circumstances exists.

With regard to abortion, I contend that the Criminal Code in its current form legislates well in regards to this issue of abortion and should stay as it is – unaltered in the way proposed by the Termination of Pregnancy Bill.

In its current form, the Criminal Code offers good balance in protecting the rights of unborn children and also those of vulnerable women. Sections 224-226 which prohibit the procurement of abortion are sections that recognise and offer protection to the rights of unborn children. At the same time, section 282 of the Criminal Code makes provision for abortions to be performed where grave and extenuating circumstances exist and this section offers recognition and protection of the rights of vulnerable women.

To remove s224-226 of the Criminal Code as recommended by the Termination of Pregnancy Bill would result in the removal of the protections afforded to unborn children. The termination of Pregnancy Bill, if passed, would allow an unborn child could be aborted for reasons other than physical danger to mother and child (see s5 of the bill) – something which I hope you would find to be as horrific as I do. This bill would also allow abortion on demand, allowing some persons to abort their child because they'd simply be an inconvenience or because they are not the right gender the parents are hoping for.

This abhorrent bill is also one that places a higher value on the lives of some unborn children over others. The bill proposes to amend the Criminal Code s313 "Killing an Unborn Child". Currently, this section of the Criminal Code makes it illegal to kill an unborn child (e.g by assaulting a pregnant woman). However, s20 The Termination of Pregnancy Bill, seeks to modify s313 of the Criminal Code by adding a sub-section that makes it legal to kill an unborn child if it is done by termination.

This begs the question, is the life of an unborn child killed as a result to an act other than abortion more valuable than the life of an unborn child killed by a termination?

Who is he to say that one life is more valuable than another? Would you say that the life of one is more valuable than the other?

Imagine the scenario where a pregnant woman is the victim of a domestic violence attack from a partner who doesn't want another child and this results in the death of her unborn child. Under the Criminal Code and Termination of Pregnancy Act, the partner who caused the death would rightly be liable for this criminal act. Compare this to the scenario where there is a pregnant couple who only wish to have a baby of a particular gender. Under the Termination of Pregnancy Bill, this couple could easily abort their child simply because it is not the gender they hope for. Under the new bill, the male who killed his unborn child as part of a domestic violence attack would be liable, whilst the couple who terminated their baby based on gender reasons would escape liability. Both parties would have killed their unborn children for selfish and abhorrent reasons but the couple who did so by termination would be excused by law. I think it is tragic and abhorrent that the Queensland Government is even considering this Termination of Pregnancy Bill which would value the life of one of these unborn children over the other.

Additionally, the Termination of Pregnancy Bill is so bad in other ways.

Section 7 of the proposed Bill allows doctors with conscientious objections to refuse to provide abortion services to pregnant women. However, at the same time, this section compels these same doctors to refer them on to someone who can or will provide an abortion. This section legally forces these good doctors to become complicit against their good conscience in the killing of the unborn. The above are just some of the reasons why the proposed Termination of Pregnancy Bill is such an abhorrent piece proposed legislation.

Abortion is ALREADY available in Queensland under current legislation which allows this procedure to be performed only where the situation is grave and desperate. In its current form, the Criminal Code offers balances and protections for both unborn children and also vulnerable women.

The lives of ALL unborn children are valuable and precious and they should be afforded all the protections that Queensland legislation allows in its current form.

The Termination of Pregnancy Bill de-values precious life. It is an evil bill that is totally unnecessary. Abortion is already available in Queensland and does occur legally under the controls of current legislation. Abortion does not need to be made more easily accessible than it ALREADY is. Please ensure that The Termination of Pregnancy Bill is not passed.

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Alevras

