



Subject:
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Submission to Queensland Parliament Health Committee on Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018
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I write to register my opposition to the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 on the following grounds.

The proposed Bill would allow abortion on demand up to 22 weeks gestation for any reason.

It is a grave moral wrong to take the life of an innocent child.

The proposed Bill would allow abortion past 22 weeks gestation until birth for any reason including social reasons and sex selection, if two doctors approve. The second doctor is not even required to see the woman or review her file. The recognised point of viability in Australia is 23 weeks and some babies are viable at 22 weeks gestation. This provision would allow for the killing of innocent children who would have a very high chance of survival – a grave violation of the right to life.

The proposed Bill would force doctors with conscientious objection to refer a woman seeking abortion to another doctor or health provider he/she believes will provide the abortion. This would make the doctor with conscientious objection complicit in the outcome and would force him/her to violate their conscience. This would be a grave denial of the right of conscience. I am concerned that doctors with such conscientious objection may choose instead to leave the profession and that young people who may have planned to enter the profession may choose not to do so for that reason. This could lead to a serious shortage of doctors in Queensland.

The proposed bill does not provide for any safeguards for women seeking abortion, such as independent counseling, requirement for an informed consent and a cooling off period. Research has shown that some women seeking abortion are acting under duress from partners or family. Such women deserve support so that they can make their own free informed choice.

There is clear evidence that, after abortion, up to 20% of women suffer serious prolonged psychological trauma. Further, according to the British Medical Journal 1997, post-abortive women are almost six times more likely to commit suicide than women who gave birth. These facts must be disclosed to women in advance so that should they consent to abortion that consent is fully informed.

The proposed Bill is unnecessary since abortion is already available in Queensland with 14,000 occurring yearly. Abortion in the Criminal Code serves as a necessary guidance to doctors and a moral compass to society.

As a final demographic comment, a society that allows large numbers of abortions is

doomed to develop a skewed age distribution with too low a percentage of young productive people and too high a percentage of aging population.

Submitted by

Colin James Apelt

