

**Subject:**

proposed abortion bill

Date:

Tuesday, 4 September 2018 10:44:36 AM

I am a mother and retired teacher. I have 2 degrees, 2 certificates (teaching & theology), 11 children and 32 grandchildren; I also taught High School religion for about 20 years, in 3 different High Schools - all of which gives me a lot of life experience.

So in brief - please don't change the abortion laws, unless to make it compulsory to have REAL counselling beforehand (which does not happen now) and an ultrasound to see that baby to be removed.

Why?

1. Long term, a lot of women are badly affected, the emotional havoc lasts for years. Women that seem unaffected freeze up a bit - there is a wall up. Other children suffer as a result.
2. Women are easily pressured into it, even if it is their first option. Often they can only hold out for so long, though brave exceptions are increasing.
3. I've seen other siblings suffer insecurity from this, kids weeping in class, it devalues them, especially as it is not discussed but leaks out.
4. All of that is my personal experience - it does not produce happiness long term.

One "Pregnancy Help" lady spoke to my High School seniors some years ago. She said "Suppose you were on a desert island, pregnant, with plenty of food, water and shelter - would you still choose to have an abortion? If you think - No, I would have the baby - that means you are being pressured into it, not really your own choice." The kids were impressed - it really resonated with them.

Thank you for listening to us.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Byrnes