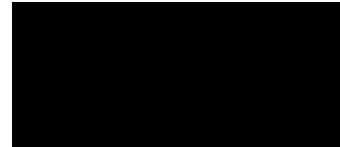


**Subject:**

Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

Date:

Tuesday, 4 September 2018 2:59:17 PM

4th September 2018

To: The Queensland Parliament Health Committee

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing concerning the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018. The specifics of the proposal are of great concern as they lack restrictions on the reasons for termination, they mandate measures which prevent others to intervene and assist a vulnerable woman (up to and approaching such a procedure); and finally, they lack any mandate for a woman to receive counselling from an objective and compassionate source prior to making such a decision.

The proposed Bill presents many issues and I will elaborate on three of these. Firstly, the act of voluntary termination is morally wrong. Murder, the taking of life without necessary cause (such as in the context of war, or in self-defence of one's life), is wrong. This law is imprinted in the hearts of all rational men and women. There are no circumstances where a child can be killed for the supposed benefit of another. The child in the womb, although lacking in the ability to exercise its rights, is still a citizen of Queensland and is entitled to be protected by the state, especially if a mother neglects this duty and intends harm or the death of her child. Child protective services under the governance of our legal system, would never allow a child that has been born, to be left in a situation of harm, let alone the ultimate situation where a parent has the intent to kill them. Negligence in doing this on the state's part would be inexcusable. The proposal to treat an unborn child any differently to one that has been born is wrong. The moral law protects the unborn child's life and is binding perpetually. It is not an option for a state to choose whether to follow it. It is not comparable to capital punishment as a just punishment, when the child has committed no criminal offence. The current law enforced in Queensland protects the child and acts as a deterrent to a mother wishing to terminate her child voluntarily, as it is a criminal offence. It is a good law and must be left unaltered for the good of the child, mother and society, whether the mother agrees with it or not.

Secondly, the woman is not actually benefited by voluntarily terminating the life of her child. She is harmed during the procedure, both physically and psychologically. It causes physical harm, in that it is unnaturally destroying the life that is within her and this involves the removal of a living human that was intended to be within her for 9 months. The placenta, which is the direct connection between the child and her, is an organ that is imbedded in her own womb. The separation of this organ is not meant

to be done until it is time for the child to be born, and this is done with the aid of numerous hormones released by the woman which facilitate this process. Such hormones are lacking during a voluntary termination (not to mention the forced dilation of the cervix) and the removal is abrupt and causes physical harm and distress on the body of the mother. This physical damage may in time heal, however, the psychological harm would remain for her whole life. She has been ill-advised, or left to her own helpless decision-making process, to oppose her own natural code of operation as a mother – to protect and nourish her own child. She has gone from a protector to a destroyer and has murdered her own flesh and blood. Both these factors will psychologically harm the woman. The state has a duty of care to protect all its citizens and impose laws that help citizens to do this. When the state imposes such laws against the will of the populace, for the good of the state and common good, it must be clear and objective as to why they are doing it. The Bill proposed does not do this. Its whole path instead shows death, destruction and continued psychological grief for the woman, with the persistence of remorse, guilt and an undermining of her own character. This will have drastic effects throughout all of society and will only serve to harm and weaken it.

Thirdly, it will undermine our medical profession. Doctors, nurses and health care workers will be forced into actions that are directly opposed to their moral code and conscience. Even if they do not have to perform the procedures themselves, they will be forced to refer requesting women to health care providers who will. Health care workers have dedicated their lives to helping others, to heal and preserve life, and they will be forced into acting against this by the legal system of the state. It is more likely that they will have to resign or move to a country or state that has not yet compromised and permitted such a law. This will only serve to diminish our medical services, or the quality and caliber of those who remain, as they have compromised their own conscience to keep their job. The expertise of the best doctors will be lost one way or another to Queensland citizens. The Queensland Government will simply provide it as a “necessary” service, lest they break their own civil law and undermine the fabric of society. To evade the pain of prosecution by the Criminal Code, our taxes will serve to ultimately dish out death to the unborn child and disharmony to mothers.

It is the duty of any right-minded citizen to reject and oppose such a Bill. I formally register my opposition and encourage all those who are in positions of authority to oppose it whole-heartedly and ensure this law is not promulgated. Queensland is the sunshine state and we are proud of it. Just because other states have chosen to block out the light of reason, does not mean we ought to follow such a course. Precedence is not justice.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Briggs

