



Subject:
Date:

Submission to Health committee re. Termination of Pregnancy Act
Tuesday, 4 September 2018 6:19:41 PM

Dear Health Committee

I wish to register my disapproval of this Bill regarding the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018.

Termination of another human life can only be appropriate for the highest of moral reasons. A woman's subjective choice is not one of them. She may choose to refrain from sexual intercourse or choose to use pregnancy prevention methods to prevent an unwanted pregnancy. If a pregnancy occurs and the baby is unwanted by the mother, she may choose adoption for the child so that the child can live in a family in which he/she is wanted. But she should not be allowed to choose to sacrifice her child for the sake of irresponsible sex or, in the case of rape or other reason, for her own comfort. In other words, there are other answers to the question of unwanted pregnancy that do not cost the life of a child. The mother should not have the responsibility of choosing whether or not the baby should live or die. It is a living human child from its conception and deserving of the greatest care by all other humans. This is contradicted by the Termination of Pregnancy Act which provides for abortion of any reason. Ref:- **5. Termination by medical practitioner at not more than 22 weeks.** *A medical practitioner may perform a termination on a woman who is not more than 22 weeks pregnant.*

Secondly, this Bill would contradict other present laws that consider the life of the unborn child of such value that those who are responsible for the destruction of the unborn child are culpable. These Laws are in place because the life of the unborn child is of equal value to any other human being. If this Bill is allowed to co-exist with present laws it will relegate the value of human life to a question as to whether or not it is wanted by others more powerful, in this case the mother. If the baby is wanted by its parents it is valued and protected in law. If it is unwanted by its mother it is of no value in law. No law that allows for abortion of a baby human for any selfish reason can reasonably protect the rest of its citizens. When taken to its logical conclusion, only a life that is wanted by the more powerful will be allowed to exist. If new laws cannot protect all equally then bills such as this Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 must be resisted and rejected.

Whilst recognising that pregnancies can occur through rape or even accidentally, pregnancies are generally the result of consensual sexual intercourse whether or not the persons involved intend a pregnancy from the encounter. This is not rocket science! If this Bill is enacted, I fear that it will engender irresponsible sexual activity at the expense of the conceived children. Conversely, if this bill were not to pass into law, abortion would remain illegal and some restraint on society. I am certain that irresponsible sexual activity and unrestrained abortions will take a negative toll on our society. If unrestrained abortion is the price we are to pay for irresponsible sex, that is a price too high to pay, especially since the unborn child will be made to pay.

Thirdly, this bill does nothing to protect the rights of Medical Practitioners who conscientiously object because they are forced to facilitate the abortion by referring the mother to someone who will carry out the abortion. Medical Practitioners who cannot in good conscience carry out an abortion themselves will also object to being a party to an abortion in any way. Ref. the Termination of Pregnancy Act:- *(3) If the request is by a woman for the registered health*

practitioner to perform a termination on the woman, or to advise the woman about the performance of a termination on the woman, the practitioner must refer the woman, or transfer her care, to— (a) another registered health practitioner who, in the first practitioner’s belief, can provide the requested service and does not have a conscientious objection to the performance of the termination; or (b) a health service provider at which, in the practitioner’s belief, the requested service can be provided by another registered health practitioner who does not have a conscientious objection to the performance of the termination.

Please register my opposition to this Bill: The Termination of Pregnancy Act.

I note that I am not alone in this position from the recent YouGov Galaxy Poll from August 2018 in which over 60% of Queenslanders voted against abortion after 13 weeks of pregnancy. Ref.

Yours Sincerely
Stephen Allan Cavill