

**Subject:**

Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

Date:

Tuesday, 4 September 2018 4:56:00 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my opinion in relation to the latest termination of pregnancy bill to be considered. As a counsellor I see first hand the devastating mental and emotional damage that is often unseen by others, even close family members when a women has undergone an abortion. Rigorous scientific studies also support that there is a strong correlation between abortion and suicide. I for one am very distressed at the way this particular bill is being passed off as a women's right issue as well as seen as a 'health issue'.

The repercussions of an abortion can be catastrophic for the women and can lead to server depression for years to come. It is my understanding there was a recent opinion poll run by an independent market research survey e.g. YouGov Galaxy Research, conducted as recently as August 2018 on this topic. They found that 88% of Queenslanders agree that women seeking an abortion should have independent counselling before they made a decision to abort. Further, this information should inform the mother on the development of the unborn child, the nature of the procedure and the physical and psychological risks associated with abortion. Why is there not a requirement for mandatory independent counselling in the bill if you think it represents women's health?

You cannot possible consider this about 'Health" if you have not fully informing the mother of the mental health risks she is running to her own health. While an abortion may appear to be a convenient way to change one's circumstances, the detrimental toll on both mother and child in my opinion is hard to comprehend. I would like a response from this letter so that I know at least my one small voice has been heard to say I do not believe you are upholding the public's best interest. I believe this is now a political issue particularly when one politician seemed very proud of herself saying " I want this to be my legacy" I thought politicians were suppose to represent their people. I don not believe this is the case.

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