

Committee Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Submission to Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

Medical knowledge and expertise in our present society is of a standard that the **intentional** 'termination' of a pregnancy should be unnecessary.

Supporting the life and well-being of **both** mother and child to the best of our ability is not beyond us.

Despite its linguistic contortions, this Bill continues to encourage our society to apply decisions about human life based on notions of **'wantedness'**.

We can argue all we like about viability and gestational limits but the end result is still the intentional killing of a completely innocent human life.

I find it incomprehensible that anyone can read the Queensland Law Reform Commission's report, (upon which this Bill is based) and not feel their stomach turn when it casually states for example: 'Procedures used to surgically remove the contents of the woman's uterus include vacuum aspiration and curettage.' (Chapter 2, page 30, 2.79)

Such bland language masks the truly barbaric actions and ideologies which have been translated into this Bill.

The Bill is completely one-sided in its support for virtually unrestricted abortion. It makes no attempt to take into account opposing views and is certain to even further polarise communities and families.

The guidelines outlined by this legislation appear to be easily open to abuse and widely varying interpretation, and it is based on providers adopting their own standards for stringency in many cases.

The ability to choose to abort a child based on their gender is not outlawed, a practice known to be detrimental to girls over boys.

“For what can language do
against the truth of what I saw?”

Whatever else an unborn child
does not have, he or she has one
thing: a will to live.

He will fight to defend his life.

There is little protection for registered health practitioners to abstain from participation in this activity due to conscientious objection. I can easily envisage a situation where a complaint is made against a registered health practitioner to effectively exploit their non-approval. Being required to refer on is enabling something to which they have initially objected. It is an illogical requirement.

The safety zones section appears to be an attempt to normalise abortion as a regular medical procedure (abortion clinics are definitely not safe places for unborn children) and have taken no account of the many instances where women have expressed gratitude for the quiet and prayerful witness and support before they make that final unalterable decision.

This Bill represents a complete misreading of how best to establish a just and healthy society.

I disagree with the underlying principles in the QLRC report recommendations from which this Bill was derived and suggest that they have led to flawed decisions.

It remains to be seen whether Queensland's parliamentary representatives instead take the initiative to collectively work on reversing the abysmal figures of 10 - 14,000 deaths each year (not even allowing for medical abortions) and instigate policies which cultivate attitudes and behaviours of responsible parenthood in the first instance and respect for all human life, not discriminating on sex or ability or age.

The sexual and reproductive health of our citizens is **not** promoted by sexual promiscuity, domestic violence or rape, nor their attempted solution by masking through artificial contraception and abortion.

I urge the Parliamentary Health Committee to recommend the rejection of this Bill completely for the good of all Queenslanders, born and unborn.



Anne-Maree Althaus



In time, it's going to be impossible to deny that abortion is violence against children. Future generations, as they look back, are not necessarily going to go easy on ours. Our bland acceptance of abortion is not going to look like an understandable goof. In fact, the kind of hatred that people now level at Nazis and slave-owners may well fall upon our era. Future generations can accurately say, "It's not like they didn't know." They can say, "After all, they had sonograms."

Abortion is the deliberate and systematic dehumanization of an entire class of people based on their age, wantedness and state of dependency.

Human life is allowed to be 'chosen' or 'granted' by decisions based on sex, race or disability, disposable for 'the greater good', or as a 'necessary evil'.

I changed my opinion on abortion after I read an article in Esquire magazine, way back in 1976. I was home from grad school, flipping through my dad's copy, and came across an article titled, "What I Saw at the Abortion."

The author, Richard Selzer, was a surgeon, and he was in favor of abortion, but he'd never seen one. So he asked a colleague whether, next time, he could go along.

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The last words in Selzer's essay are, "Whatever else is said in abortion's defense, the vision of that other defense [i.e., of the child defending its life] will not vanish from my eyes. And it has happened that you cannot reason with me now. For what can language do against the truth of what I saw?"

Whatever else an unborn child does not have, he or she has one thing: a will to live. He will fight to defend his life.
