

Submission to the Qld Parliamentary Health Committee about the proposed 'Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018'.

From Richard and Kylie Hanson - [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

We completely oppose the proposed 'Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018' in its entirety. We do not wish any parts of this proposed Bill to come into force.

The proposed Bill would legalise the deliberate killing of unborn children at any stage for any reason, which is a terrible thing. How could we claim to be a civil society with laws like this? What about the rights of the unborn child to live? Are they less important or less human than anyone else? No, of course not. They are fully human from the point of conception. This proposed Bill would violate their most basic human right, the right to life. They are innocent, vulnerable little people who have no voice. We need to protect them at all stages of pregnancy.

We oppose Part 2, section 5 - Termination by medical practitioner at not more than 22 weeks. This would allow termination of an unborn child for any reason up to 22 weeks. 22 weeks is more than half-way through the pregnancy, that's outrageous! Premature babies can be kept alive at 22 weeks of age and older. We believe that termination at any point after conception is morally wrong and should not be lawful, because the unborn child is a human being upon conception, there is no point at which it changes from non-human to human.

We oppose Part 2, Section 6 - Termination by medical practitioner after 22 weeks. This would allow a medical practitioner to perform an abortion up until birth for basically any reason if they, and another medical practitioner, think that it is a good idea in the circumstances. We can't believe that anyone would consider this to be acceptable in our society. And the second medical practitioner doesn't even need to see the woman requesting a termination. This does not really provide for any genuine accountability in the process.

We oppose Part 2, Section 8 - Registered health practitioner with conscientious objection. This section requires a practitioner with a conscientious objection to the abortion to refer the patient to another practitioner to get the abortion. This makes the practitioner with the conscientious objection complicit in the whole abortion process. This violates their basic human right to decline to participate in something that contradicts their deeply held values/morals/beliefs about human life. Basic freedoms are being violated here.

We oppose Part 3 of the Act, which allows for women to perform abortions on themselves. This is a very dangerous proposal, as we have heard that women can die from a poorly performed abortion.

We oppose all of Part 4, Divisions 1 and 2, in relation to safe access zones around abortion clinics. This part of the act is anti-freedom, and for that reason alone must not become law. This is Australia, a country that highly values freedom. We have fought many wars to protect freedom. This proposed law is trying to restrict people's freedom of speech and movements in the public realm. This is an disgraceful and dangerous notion.

In addition, Part 4 denies women the right to know the whole truth about abortion, which many women are unaware of. We have heard that many women deeply regret having an abortion after the fact, and they can suffer severe mental and

emotional trauma for the rest of their lives as a result. This should not be surprising - knowing that you deliberately killed your own unborn child would be something that would obviously haunt and traumatise a person forever. Therefore, this proposed law is also harmful to women from a mental/emotional health perspective.

In addition, the proposed penalty for someone breaching Part 4, Division 2 of the Act is extremely unreasonable - up to 1 year imprisonment! We can't imagine anyone would think it reasonable to send someone to jail for trying to protect vulnerable women and save the lives of unborn children. This proposal is illogical and draconian and must not become law in Queensland.