

Name & Address: P Johnson, [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

To: The members of the Queensland Government Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

### **SUBMISSION REGARDING THE “TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 2018”**

**PRELIMINARY NOTE:** I completed the online “Snapform” to make my submission, but when I reached the end the form it refused to be submitted. I have therefore had to resort to emailing my submission as a PDF.

I am a long-term resident of Queensland and I object to the intent and terms of the proposed legislation encapsulated in the “Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018”.

I oppose the practice of terminating life of an unborn infant. I particularly regard it as an affront to human dignity that termination should be permitted up until the moment of natural birth. My submission to the Committee only touches upon a few of my objections – which follow:

1. I assert that the enabling of full-term terminations (effectively unregulated) is a retrograde development in Australian society. I don’t care whether or not other Australian jurisdictions have enacted similar legislation (as cited in the Explanatory Notes that accompany the Bill) – that doesn’t make it right. I thought that it was pathetic for the Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC) to cite a need to “copy-cat” other Australian states as a justification for recommending the legalisation of the full-term termination of immature human life.
2. While the Bill goes into some detail to provide for draconian “*safe access zone provisions...intended to promote public safety and public order*” - the provisions covering conscientious objectors are totally inadequate with respect to protecting medical practitioners, assistive staff, and medical service institutions (such as hospitals) from coercive legal action to force them to act against their ethical principles. This is a failure on the part of the QLRC in its obligations to protect and maintain the rights of all Queensland residents. It reflects badly on the acumen of the members of the QLRC who effectively framed this Bill.

If enacted, the Bill will inflict adverse obligations on medical practitioners who have ethical objections, because it obliges them to act as referral agents in the termination process. This is legislative overreach - a draconian outcome that takes the Bill well beyond its primary objective of setting up an “abortion-on-demand” regime. The “referral agent” obligation will have the effect of being used as an instrument of professional coercion – if not persecution - of those medical practitioners who have ethical or moral objections to being part of the abortion apparatus. It is reprehensible that the Queensland Law Reform Commission has proposed this. The members of your committee need to be aware that such a “punish-the-doctors” course of action will eventually lead to political damage to those members of parliament who are intent on pursuing a full-term “abortion-on-demand” regime. The members of parliament need to be made aware that there is *no political upside* to what is being proposed. The ensuing political damage will also spill over onto the reputations of the members of your committee.

3. It is implicit in the “Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018” that the destruction of the life an unborn child will be legal right up to the moment of birth. It is contrary to logic for legislators to suggest that although the life of a newborn infant should be safeguarded by law *after* birth, that it can be ethically terminated immediately just *before* birth – a difference that may only be minutes. I

assert that there is no ethical logic for such an arbitrary decision point. A termination just before delivery endorses a “throw-away” utilitarian culture and offends the principles of human dignity upon which our civilisation is based.

4. Amongst the formal objectives of your committee is ‘*the prevention of family violence*’. Those words are even in the title of the committee. The destruction of the life of an unborn child can only be construed as an act of “family violence” – it is certainly not an act of love. If your committee recommends that this Bill be enacted, then each of the committee members will have engaged in an act of hypocrisy by contradicting and acting against ‘*the prevention of family violence*’ principle which is supposed to be one of the foundational objectives of your committee. In addition - it is duplicitous to classify the termination of the life of the unborn as “*a reproductive service*” – a term frequently used in the Explanatory Notes accompanying the Bill. In fact, the effect of this legislation will be the very antithesis of the “reproduction” of human life. To describe termination of the life of the unborn as “*a reproductive service*” is blatant Orwellian double-speak, where the true meaning of words is inverted with the intention of deception by masking the reality of what is actually happening. It is shameful that the Queensland Law Reform Commission has indulged in this deceptive euphemistic practice in making its report. Your committee should refuse to do likewise.
5. The ‘Explanatory Notes’ accompanying the Termination of Pregnancy Bill assert that:
 

*“United Nations treaty bodies have....identified that denying access to termination can constitute discrimination and a violation of women’s rights...”*.

The corollary of this is that both the “*United Nations treaty bodies*” and the proponents of this Bill consider that an unborn human has no inherent right to live. Are the unelected and largely faceless bureaucrats who run the United Nations to be regarded as the ultimate authority in determining the laws for the State of Queensland?

Why has the “*United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to health*” - an unelected bureaucrat - been afforded any authoritative pre-eminence in determining the nature of Queensland legislation in this matter over that of, say, prominent authorities or individuals of repute in Australia who reflect the traditional ethical views of very large numbers of Australians? In giving pre-eminence to such people as the “*United Nations Special Rapporteur*”, the members of the Queensland Law Reform Commission have ridden roughshod over the views of ordinary Queensland residents, apparently to implement a social-engineering agenda that aligns with the QLRC members’ own personal ideological values - not those of Queenslanders. This is a recipe that sets up the conditions for a political backlash against the members of parliament who elect to support this change.

6. There is no public demand for this change in the legislation – successive opinion polls indicate that. It is pretty obvious that the main beneficiaries of the enactment of the “Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018” will be the investors and business operators of the abortion factories, in conjunction with those who traffic in human organs and tissue - that is, the profiteers, exploiters, and bottom-feeders who stand to enrich themselves on the back of a greatly increased [REDACTED]. As a member of a principal enabling committee you should be cognisant of the social stigma that will attach to you as a facilitator of this uncalled-for change in the legislation, which is perceived by so many Queenslanders as having vicious intent.

I urge the Committee to consider the above factors and to recommend that the “Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018” not be put before the Queensland parliament and be permanently withdrawn.

- Paul Johnson