

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Comr

From: Neil Hayter
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 11:17 AM
To: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to express my strong opposition to the enactment of the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 for the following reasons:

- It would allow abortion past 22 weeks gestation until birth, even for social reasons. It is shocking that government is even considering this because some babies are viable outside the womb at 22 weeks gestation.
- It is anti-women because it allows sex selection abortion. This is gender discrimination, in which unborn female babies are often killed for the “crime” of being a girl.
- It would force doctors with a conscientious objection to refer a woman seeking an abortion to another doctor who will be able to facilitate her request, thus making the referring doctor complicit in the outcome. This is a violation of the right to conscientious objection, and a doctor’s obligation to recommend what is the patient’s best interests.
- It does not include safeguards for women seeking an abortion, such as independent counselling, an informed consent requirement and a cooling-off period. A YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018 showed that 88% of Queenslanders agree that women seeking an abortion should have free independent counselling before making a decision. A requirement for mandatory independent counselling from a source not connected with the abortion clinic is not in the bill. It is profoundly anti-woman.
- It ignores the right of women to know the real risk factors of abortion. There is clear evidence that up to 1 in 5 women suffer serious prolonged psychological trauma after abortion, such as depression and anxiety. The relief most women experience immediately after an abortion is usually transient. The facts of abortion must be disclosed to women so they can have real way of informed consent.

Yours faithfully

Neil Hayter