

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

From: Patricia Byrnes
Sent: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 11:40 AM
To: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Subject: Abortion Bill submission

I am a mother, grandmother, retired teacher, with 2 degrees & 2 diplomas. I have taught Religious Instruction in both Primary and High Schools for over 40 years - all of which gives me a lot of life experience.

So - please do not change the present Abortion Law, unless to make it compulsory to have REAL counselling (which does not happen now), to give the father of the child a right to be heard, and to view the ultrasound of the supposedly unwanted baby.

Why? So many things to say, but in brief, in my experience -

1. It doesn't work, doesn't bring happiness. Often another baby is conceived, to replace the lost one. Very often, the couple break up. Long term depression, dreams etc are well documented.
2. Many women are pressured into it and can't forgive themselves. It is much easier to say "No" when you can also say "It is against the law."
3. It affects the other siblings. I have seen kids weeping in class, because they have been told (or discovered) that their mother had, or is having, an abortion. It seems to make them insecure as to their own worth. A Pregnancy Help counsellor spoke to my (state) High School Seniors a few times, and they were very impressed with her account of personal cases she had helped. She also says to girls who come to them - "Suppose you were on a desert island, with plenty of food, water & shelter, would you still want to abort your baby?" They nearly always said - No, I wouldn't. She would then tell them that they are being pushed into it by society, by people, that they are being exploited. It gives a new way to look at why they make a decision.

Thank you for asking for input, I really appreciate that.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Byrnes