

SUBMISSION ON THE TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 2018

I would like to be a voice for the voiceless and speak on behalf of the unborn babies in the womb facing “termination” – a word used to avoid the actual fact that the life of an innocent human being is taken. Sadly we have come to a time in history, a supposedly enlightened time in history, where we discriminate on the basis of where a person resides.

It is so ironic that we protect all manner of things, animals, plants and the environment, but we do not protect an unborn child and somehow try to sell that as being pro-choice.

I am unable to be pro-choice if I find a deadly brown snake in my yard or house – I will be fined a hefty sum of money if I in fact try to take it's life. The same applies to many other animals – including being jailed or fined for cruelty to dogs or cats. I happen to agree with these laws but find it incredible that the same laws do not apply to an unborn human being.

A baby in the womb is just that – a baby. Leave it there until it is ready to be born and you get a baby. It is not part of the woman's body – it is a distinct entity with it's own unique DNA and unique features and even blood group. However it does require the generosity of a woman to allow the baby to reside in her body until birth. I have educated many women to achieve a pregnancy using Natural Family Planning and have seen the incredible joy when those women had a positive pregnancy test and then delivered a baby in 9 months. I have witnessed the incredible sadness when a couple cannot achieve a pregnancy after trying for a long period to have a baby.

I am sure most of these infertile couples would be overjoyed to give an unwanted baby a home – thus saving the life of the baby and allowing the woman to live with the knowledge she didn't destroy the child in her womb but gave the ultimate gift to another infertile couple. I am sure you know of a major reason we have so few babies in Queensland available for adoption.

I therefore object to this Abortion Bill as it is brutal and extreme and would effectively allow abortion up to birth in many circumstances.

In a recent poll of 1,000 Queensland voters by leading market research firm YouGov Galaxy conducted online from 6 – 8 August, 2018, it was wonderful to see that 62% of people agreed that the unborn at 23 weeks is a person with rights. 76% oppose Late-term abortion past 23 weeks. We even have 52% of people who oppose abortion for any reason until 22 weeks. A huge majority, that is 83%, oppose sex-selective abortion. We are not allowed to discriminate against a person on the basis of sex post birth – how inconsistent is it that we are proposing to discriminate against a person pre-birth.

I wish to object to the fact that there are no safeguards for women considering abortion, that is no mandatory counselling, no informed consent conditions or cooling-off period. Even buying a fridge or any household item requires those

selling the item to allow for a “cooling-off” period because people can change their mind.

I work as a Registered nurse in a Pre-admission clinic and I know and see daily the requirements prior to a surgical procedure – that is – a fully informed consent to be explained and signed by both patient and doctor. How can we be so blatantly blind to this travesty of justice being proposed and think that an emotionally upset woman struggling with an unplanned pregnancy does not deserve the right to know the physical, emotional and psychological consequences of an abortion.]

Mandatory counseling would be a great idea – and not the supposed “counselling” provided by the Abortion clinic. I have heard a woman say: the counselling consisted of sitting me down and saying “this is what will happen on the day” in a few brief words. In fact one woman confided that she had changed her mind as she arrived at the clinic and began preparations for the abortion – only to be told “this is normal” and she just carried on with the abortion against her will. So much for “pro-choice” and “best practice” when it comes to abortion.

I am sad to report that I have heard over the past 20 years too many stories from women hurt by abortion, particularly of the deep regret, pain and grief experienced by these women. I have also heard from the fathers, the parents (grandparents of the child aborted) and many extended family members. Our community suffers also as we have lost approximately 14,000 Queensland children (approximately 70,000 Australians) each year and we have paid from our federal health budget approximately 11 million dollars per year for Medicare funded abortions.

Since 1975 when I began my Nursing Training I have been a proud health worker striving daily to protect the lives of those I encounter in hospitals, aged care, community, schools and other places I have worked. It is in our Code of Ethics to respect all regardless of age, race, sex, ethnic background, marital status etc and we strive to reduce any harm to a person and enhance health. I cannot reconcile the fact that this Bill will require a health professional to deliberately take the life of a healthy baby - in the majority of cases for social reasons.

I object to this Bill which would still require a Medical Practitioner to refer a person for an abortion despite their conscientious objection, thus becoming an accomplice. A hospital run by religious order would also be obliged to perform abortions despite them having conscientious objections – as would the clerical staff involved in this process in a hospital. We are constantly told about the “rights” of a person – but the right to object to killing an unborn child is not a right to be upheld.

Lastly I do not agree with a 150 metre exclusion zone around abortion clinics as there should remain a civil right for those who wish to pray peacefully outside an abortion clinic and/or offer information to the woman who enters the clinic. I have heard the testimony of women who have changed their mind and accepted the help of a pro-life person outside the clinic and gone on to deliver their

precious baby. They are forever grateful for that assistance and have spoken publicly about the gift of their child and their gratitude to those good people willing to offer practical and/or emotional assistance. Many women are coerced by partners, family, some health professionals, social workers and friends – particularly those friends who have had an abortion. These women often feel they have no other choice and against their will they have the abortion – these are the women who will surely regret it and suffer the consequences.

Women deserve better – better education on fertility, better independent, non-directive counseling, better support to keep their baby or adopt their baby – and better assistance if they have chosen an abortion and then regret it and suffer Post abortion Syndrome. The pro-life organizations are the only ones who are interested in a woman if she is suffering post-abortion. In my experience the pro-choice people or organizations are certainly not interested in assisting the woman, as they don't, can't believe she is suffering.

The beginning of the end of a civilization starts when we regard a particular group of people as not worth protecting - sadly we saw this when millions of Jews were sent to the gas chambers during the Second World War. Please do not discriminate against the voiceless, innocent babies in the womb and legalize abortion in Queensland. The Law as it stands allows for an abortion when the life of the mother is in danger and in these cases the Doctor would also try to save the baby when possible. There is access to abortion in legitimate circumstances now – we do not need this dreadful Abortion Bill.

Yours sincerely

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