

Debbie Gorman

To the Qld Parliamentary Health Committee

Please consider my submission about the 'Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018'.

I am opposed to the 'Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018' for the following reasons:

- Part 2, section 5, would allow termination of an unborn child for any reason up to 22 weeks, no questions asked. I am opposed to this from a moral perspective, as I believe that aborting an unborn baby at any stage of its development is morally wrong. In addition, by making abortions up to 22 weeks really easy, with no requirement to inform women of the many risks associated with an abortion, many women will be harmed as a result. The long-term mental and emotional trauma suffered by many women after having an abortion can be quite debilitating.
- Part 2, Section 6, 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 reasonable in the circumstances. I am opposed to this for the same reasons as stated above. I am also opposed to this section because the second medical practitioner is not required to see the woman requesting the termination. This would likely lead to bad outcomes for babies and mothers, due to a lack of accountability.
- Part 2, Section 8, requires a practitioner with a conscientious objection to the abortion to refer the patient to another practitioner. I believe that this violates the rights of the practitioner by forcing them to participate in something that they are morally opposed to. This is a violation of their freedom.
- Part 4, Divisions 1 and 2, violate basic freedoms of Queenslanders. The proposed safe access zones around abortion clinics would actually remove the right to freedom of speech in the public realm. This is very un-Australian and must not become law.
- Part 4 also prevents women from being informed about all the risks associated with abortion, including the high risk of developing severe mental and emotional issues after having the abortion. These mental and emotional health issues can persist very long-term and can be debilitating. Therefore, this proposed legislation will actually be harmful to women.
- The proposed consequences for someone violating Division 2 of Part 4 is up to 1 years imprisonment. This proposed maximum penalty is massively out of proportion with the minor nature of the supposed crime - caring people who merely want to fully educate women about the many negative consequences of having an abortion, before they go through with it. This is extremely unreasonable and must not be legislated.