

**From:** [Margaret Ochsner](#)  
**To:** [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Termination of Pregnancy Bill, 2018  
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It is almost inconceivable to me that a bill of this kind is even considered. There is such ignorance or denial about all the emotional, mental and physical affects to both the baby, the mother and also to medical staff who are involved.

A baby is a human being. A baby's heart starts to beat at 5 weeks, and brain activity starts at 8 weeks. They start to move at 16 weeks and have a reasonable chance of survival from 23 weeks onward, so to deliberately take a life is murder.

It is such a selfish act to take the life of one person, so they can continue to live their life!

Late term abortions, where a baby is dismembered is barbaric!

There have been many cases of babies surviving abortions, who have just been left to die.

It is wrong, that there is no independent or correct counselling to find out why they want an abortion and help for the underlying problems of coercion, domestic violence, threats they have received, feeling inadequate and unable to cope emotionally or financially etc

Women are often not told about the risks and after affects; no cooling off period; or no information about the help and alternatives, which many would consider if they were aware of them.

The fact that the second doctor that is supposed to sign off on the abortion, doesn't even have to see the woman or read her file and that there are no legal penalties for doctors if rules are not followed or that medical staff are forced to do things against their conscience or beliefs is also wrong.

I have known of two women who were young and single and had abortions. Later they married and couldn't have children, because of the damage done to them in the abortion process. There must be many others this has happened to.

I have also counselled quite a few women who have had regrets, guilt and shame all their lives because they had an abortion. Some have developed severe depression, mental problems or even been suicidal.

I strongly urge you not to pass this bill.

Yours faithfully,  
Margaret Ochsner

