

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 8:59:12 PM

Dear Health Committee

I wish to voice my concern and disapproval of the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 and seek your consideration of the following issues in support of my position:

Section 6(2) states:

In considering whether a termination should be performed on a woman, a medical practitioner must consider—

- (a) all relevant medical circumstances; and
- (b) the woman's current and future physical, psychological and social circumstances; and
- (c) the professional standards and guidelines that apply to the medical practitioner in relation to the performance of the termination.

It seems inconceivable to me that a medical practitioner has the requisite skills to make a judgement on the current psychological and social circumstances of the woman and even more so the future psychological and social circumstances of the woman. It may be possible that the medical practitioner may seek advice from other relevant professionals however what guarantee is there in the bill that such advice will be procured and even if it is procured how can any professional make such predictions.

Furthermore, I fail to see on what criteria such predictions will be made. Surely, such a grave decision, if it is to be granted, on the life of a person needs to have explicit criteria on which society can judge.

The second concern is that the bill clearly acknowledges in section 6(3) that an unborn child exists when the pregnancy has reached 22 weeks and thus I argue that both lives matter. On that basis how can legislation discriminate between one life and another and even presuming the medical practitioner is prepared to do so on what basis is he/she going to make such decision on one over the other.

In my view, this proposed legislation is extraordinary and unprecedented in the unfettered power it gives to the medical profession over innocent lives. I urge you to advise parliament on the dangers of this proposed legislation and recommend it not be approved.

Andrew O'Brien
[REDACTED]