

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Submission on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 8:39:07 PM

Dear Health Committee,

RE: *Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018*

I am writing to oppose the proposed *Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018*. I do this on a number of grounds, particularly those relating to medical and constitutional law, as well as broader human rights laws and the rights of a child.

The *Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018* does not ensure a citizen's right to the exercise freedom of speech and movement. If a person is given a right to freely enter a place, so too should the right to freely protest in front of that place **on public land**. The right to freedom of political expression must not be restricted. Restricting the rights of people to protest is silencing one set of political ideas to promote another. The **rule of law** is built upon the idea that people can speak freely about problems with the law, without fear of persecution. Freedom of speech promotes debate within society which fosters transparency and accountability. This allows all citizens to participate freely within our democracy. This bill must be amended to ensure that freedom of speech and movement are upheld. One can imagine the outcry if a law was passed that banned union members from protesting on public land because it might offend employers and customers. Similar logic demands that freedom of speech be paramount in a democratic society.

Moreover, medical staff should have a right to be conscientious objectors and not be required to **refer** a pregnant woman to a doctor that will complete an abortion. Such a practice would undermine a doctor's right to freedom of religion and freedom of political speech, as the doctor is forced to participate in the process by referring the patient. If any bill is passed, an online register should be set up that allows doctors to clearly state whether or not they will perform such an act. That way no doctor is required to refer a patient – a patient can refer to the register themselves.

Fundamentally, protection and preservation of human life should be the paramount concern of any society. A bill that seeks to legalise the destruction of human life, on wide reaching grounds beyond medical concerns, should not be accepted. Human beings have a universal right to live. An unborn child has done nothing wrong and should not be sentenced to death. An unborn child's only 'crime' is living – something of which they had no part in. Their life and **health** should be protected. They have no power to speak or advocate for their life and health. Any proposed bills should ensure that such a practice is heavily restricted and limited to exceptional life and death situations.

This Health Committee should also refer this bill for review by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, as this issue has been incorrectly categorised solely as a health issue. There are serious quasi legal-health issues that must be examined by elected parliamentarians.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Andrew Lamb

Australian Labor Party Member (South Rockhampton Branch)

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