

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed Abortion Bill
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 10:50:57 PM

I am writing to you as a Queensland voter concerned about the proposed changes to abortion legislation.

I have found it difficult to separate alarmist misinformation from facts when reading about this Bill, specifically regarding whether abortions would be permitted up to full term. I have read many things indicating that abortions would be permitted 'past 22 weeks' with two doctors' approval, which suggests to me they would be permitted up to full term. I think I am not alone in being highly alarmed by this. I also object to the idea that a woman could access an abortion for any reason she likes prior to 22 weeks. Abortion should not be treated as a birth control option. While I recognise there are instances where it may be required to preserve the mother's life, this is something already allowed for by Queensland legislation. Regardless of the specifics, I'd urge you to please do your best to oppose any changes to abortion law that would either a) allow terminations to be more easily carried out or b) make terminations more readily available at a later stage of pregnancy.

In following community debate about this issue I have noticed an interesting trend: if an unborn child is accidentally killed (for example in an accident or assault), parents and the community grieve, and in some cases legal action is taken. However, if the unborn child is 'not wanted,' it is at risk of abortion. The trend I am noting is that the sole determinant in this matter is whether the child is 'wanted' by the parents.

Does the value of human life simply depend on whether that life is wanted and valued by others? Personally, I wonder whether this way of thinking easily leads to adolescent depression and suicide - if a teenager is, for example, shamed and isolated by friends or family, it's a small step to conclude your life is not valued, that you're not 'wanted', and that a logical step would be to end your own life. Our attitude to life in the womb - that it is disposable simply because it is not wanted - potentially reflects a larger problematic attitude towards the value of human life.

Thank you for taking our views into account when discussing this matter, and I would be pleased if you could add my voice to those opposing the new legislation.

Leah de Jager

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