

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Submission re Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 11:20:11 PM

To the committee secretary - Health, Communities, Disability Services, and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

Dear committee members; you are no doubt aware that at present in Queensland in the case of a miscarriage or still birth after 20 weeks gestation and the fetus weighing 400g or more there is a requirement for registration with Births, Deaths and Marriages. There is also a requirement for burial or cremation. In other words the law recognizes this fetus as human, at least from 20 weeks gestation. This was illustrated in a recent court judgement where a male offender was given two life sentences, one for the murder of his partner and one for the murder of her unborn child. This Bill would allow the destruction of an unborn human right up to birth. How can this be acceptable in a civilized society.

This Bill also allows for abortion for any reason to 22 weeks gestation and for a wide range of reasons right up to full term. One of the reasons will be sex selection, IE the termination of girl babies. Apart from the future imbalance in population, this has to be the ultimate in gender discrimination, as well as being totally abhorrent.

At this moment in our Queensland Hospitals there are many premature babies being lovingly cared for by dedicated staff and worried parents at huge monetary expense. This Bill will allow free abortion in our public hospitals so we will have the situation where maybe in the same building some babies are being treated with the best that medical science can provide and others who are perfectly viable with healthy mothers are being brutally terminated. The fact that a fetus can feel pain is undeniable as when surgery is conducted on babies in utero pain relief is given to both mother and baby.

This Bill also requires medical doctors with a conscientious objection (under threat of sanction) to refer a woman requesting an abortion to another doctor who will help the woman with her request. This makes the the first doctor complicit in the outcome. This is blatant work place bullying. Yet members of the Queensland Parliament will have a conscience vote.

One part of your committee is called The Family Violence Prevention Committee. This Bill has no safeguards for women who may be being coerced into having an abortion by partners or other family members. No informed consent, no cooling off period, and certainly no support after an abortion. And surely killing your own child is the ultimate in family violence. There is ample evidence that abortion causes both physical and psychological damage to women and also to some of the fathers who were opposed to the termination. This Bill does nothing to address these issues.

An independent poll conducted by You Gov Galaxy has shown that most Queensland voters are opposed to This Bill. The details of this poll are readily available to the committee.

There are many other aspects of This Bill that are troubling to me but for brevity I will leave it there.

The present law in Queensland regarding abortion is flawed but is infinitely better than the

proposed Bill that would allow open slather late term abortions on perfectly viable perfect little humans. Do we as Queenslanders wish to live in a state that places a higher priority on the welfare of racing greyhounds (and their training methods) or live cattle / sheep exports or whales (or other headline grabbing issues important as they are) than we do on our own human babies. I urge all members of the committee to put aside any existing ideological position (if you have one) or political affiliation, look at the facts, and I am sure that you will come to the conclusion that Queensland does not need this brutal Bill. Then recommend to your colleagues in the Parliament that they reject this Bill.

Yours Sincerely

Liam Elmer

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