From: To:	Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Subject:	Abortion Bill Legislation Submission
Date:	Wednesday, 5 September 2018 9:34:36 AM
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Dear Queensland Parliamentary Review Committee

I am deeply concerned by the new Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 (i.e. 'Abortion Bill') that Jackie Trad has currently tabled in Queensland Parliament.

It appears, as reported in the Sunday Mail on 2 September 2018, p.25, 'Abortion Bill 'unrestricted", that this is available at any stage of pregnancy.

I have grave doubts about the key issues pushed for in this legislation including:

- Unrestricted term for an abortion, no matter the age of the unborn child
- The ability for doctors and parents to gender select and discriminate against their unborn child on a gender basis alone by undertaking an abortion
- The possible recrimination against any doctor, nurse, mother or right-to-life advocate who has a conscious and ethical responsibility **NOT** to promote or undertake an abortion
- The lack of regard for a dignified approach to society's most vulnerable an unborn child. Babies must be protected. They are not just objects to be killed on the whim of a parent.

I plead with you earnestly that you reject the Abortion Bill in its entirety! Every human life deserves dignity, protection and support, no matter whether it is born or unborn.

I believe that we should **INCREASE the penalties for causing the death of an unborn baby**, as it is a mother's responsibility to nurture her own offspring until born, at the very least. If the baby is still not wanted then, the mother can offer her full-term-born baby to others who can't have any children at all for adoption. And the baby's life is spared, wanted and cared for as a valuable human life.

The reasons why I ask for such increased penalties against abortion are expressed below:

• This Abortion Bill makes it too easy for a pregnant woman or a doctor to undertake an abortion and kill an unborn innocent human beyond 22 weeks of life, right up to full term of pregnancy.

Currently, if someone causes an unborn baby to be aborted by even kicking or mistreating a pregnant mother, it is considered in the courts as a manslaughter act and the person receives and appropriate penalty. If a baby is born but then left on a table to die on its own accord, or hurt sufficiently to cause death, it is called murder. Under this Abortion Bill, an unborn baby may be made to die in a most cruel, and painful way if either a doctor or mother decides to abort the unborn child, right up to the final hours before it is born! What a shocking indictment on our society. This is third world stuff. Our laws are to protect life; not give power to take it when it suits some uncaring person!

• Our babies, whether unborn or born at any age or stage of their development, are our most vulnerable, voiceless people in our society. This Abortion Bill seeks to treat our unborn children as dispensable or non-valuable inconveniences or a mistake, resulting in a manner of forced abortion with the sole purpose to kill and discard a human life. Even

the fact that we don't publish pictures of aborted babies or read about the horrific procedures undertaken shows how naturally awful abortion is – it's completely unnatural and an evil act against another person.

To illustrate this point further, note that no normal person even treats animals as badly as this! Who rips into an animal's uterus and pulls out its unborn offspring and then leaves them to die or ensures that they are purposefully killed?? But under the guise and ploy of the 'rights' of a mother, a mother will be able to fully disregard the life that is within her and deliberately kill it without a conscience for selfish or fearful reasons and avoiding unpleasant questions from anyone.

Moreover, with this bill requiring all doctors and nurses to practice against their ethics in training, regarding the value of human life, to have hardened consciences and turn a blind eye to the practice of abortion. This bill demands that all medical practitioners, who are practicing their specialised services to SAVE lives, must now act unethically, immorally and unconscionably, if to hold their jobs and reputations. Furthermore, if a baby survives an abortion procedure, this new bill requires that no one is to help this child survive, with no regard to the fact that it is alive and has the ability to breathe on its own. Instead, they are to walk away from all their previous work ethics and natural and God-given instincts to care and love that child. What a tragedy and a reflection on where society is heading. We need to regard life as our most valuable asset and here some members of parliament are intent on destroying life.

Also, of great concern, is the stipulation that mothers do not need to receive counselling before undergoing an abortion, or have all the emotional, psychological, spiritual and medical risks explained to them before undertaking such a procedure. There are many suffering women and men in our societies world-wide today, who never expected to suffer the grief they must live with for the rest of their lives – their death of their own child by their own hands. Many abortion procedures have hurt the women, messed up their hormones and mostly not supported them at through abortion grief, which may last for the rest of their lives. If any woman is caused to think about the long-term consequences of an abortion, by either a pro-life protester, doctor, nurse, midwife, counsellor, church, family psychologist or even a friend, then this is far better for her to do so **BEFORE** she undertakes an abortion rather than after she does so, often under the influence of other people and factors.

We need to remember that every unborn child that is considered for abortion is another life like yours and mine. It is an amazing miracle that once born and nurtured in life, they are a complete person just like you and me. We may feel uncomfortable teaching people to regard human life as sacred again – a gift from God and not an accidental result of a sexual tryst – but it's not the mother or doctor who should be given the life-cutting power here. Instead, all unborn children need the right to live. Most animals treat their young in a far more humane and caring way than this Bill advocates.

## Again, I ask that you reject this Abortion Bill in its entirety. And enforce tougher penalties on all who think abortion is an acceptable and promotable act to be undertaken within our State of Queensland.

Thanking you so much for reading this submission. I understand that this proposed "Bill" is emotional and a very difficult, topic. However, this will only add to the horrifying deaths we are experiencing in our society with less and less regard for human life. We spend a fortune on keeping people alive and now this "Bill" wants to destroy human lives at the most vulnerable end of the scale. I Plead with you. Do not allow this "Bill" to proceed in any form.

With kind regards Robert Thompson