

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Strong objection to the abhorrent proposed Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 September 2018 9:00:00 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I need to register my strong objection to the abhorrent contents and terms of the proposed Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018.

I can't understand how this is anything short of permitting murder. I would love if someone could explain to me otherwise, when, if a baby was removed from the womb (in a non-violent manner!) at the gestation stages that this law would allow termination at, they would survive and be considered "alive" and a "human being," whereas those who are not given that opportunity, aren't - regardless of the fact that they have the exact same anatomy and physical features and abilities, and functionality?

If we allow for this bill to pass in it's current state, with allowances for terminations up until birth under the incredibly broad term of "social" reasons (which has and will include gender selection), where will we end up as a society? If a woman can kill her baby in utero at 37 weeks gestation because she believes that her mental state will be affected, what if another woman decides that hers HAS been affected a week after she's given birth to a baby at 36 weeks (that's survived)? Could she then dispose of her baby (who would have the exact same physical attributes and (potential) viability as the baby who was aborted at the same gestation point), without repercussion, if hers are the only rights that should be acknowledged and taken into consideration?

Why are babies who were wanted but stillborn after 22 weeks issued birth and death certificates? Surely the issue of a death certificate, proves that the baby was once alive?! What determines life? A heartbeat? Because babies in utero have those from 3 weeks after conception; Brain activity? Because babies in utero have this from 6 weeks after conception; The ability to feel pain? Because babies in utero do from 27 weeks gestation (doctors must use anaesthetic when performing surgery on babies in utero (not when they are performing abortions though, when those babies would feel the most excruciating pain imaginable)).

These would all be factors taken into consideration when an adult (say, after a car accident), is being assessed to determine whether they are "compatible with life," and can be saved. Why do we not afford the same determining factors to children, when they're in the womb, who meet all the exact same criteria?

I'm begging that it be allowed for members to have a conscience vote with regard to this bill—it's so wrong to force someone to vote contrary to their personal convictions—and I'm praying that the majority of those voting will unite as a voice for the voiceless, and protect and fight for the rights of the most vulnerable members of our society - those in utero. We were all in their position at one point... to all those who this law could allow for the extermination of, "there, but for the grace of God, go I..." and everyone reading this, and everyone voting.

Thank you for your time and consideration - I look forward to your response and acknowledgment of my submission.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Jayne Mays

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