

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Proposed New Abortion Laws
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 9:23:06 AM

I am extremely concerned about the proposed bill to decriminalise late term abortion for a number of reasons. Abortion of any unborn child is obviously a very serious step for any woman and should never be taken lightly. Decriminalising such an act will obviously make such a decision easier for some people to make. However, to allow a mother to decide to have a late-term abortion when an unborn child is fully-formed defies all logic and denies the rights of that child. It seems unusual to me that the state of Queensland with arguably the strongest child protection legislation and processes in the country would consider this gross violation of the rights of an unborn child.

Should a child be unwanted for whatever reason, there are a number of alternatives that should be promoted, rather than allowing that unborn child to be killed, which essentially is what is being proposed. I have met so many young couples unable to have children who have to resort to expensive and traumatic overseas adoptions because of the lack of children available for adoption in Australia. This would surely be a better course of action for the mental and emotional health of a woman with an unplanned pregnancy, to see that the child she has conceived going to a loving caring family.

Stronger pregnancy counselling services should be provided to allow an unintentional mother to consider the options available, including to adopt out the child or to raise that child herself. Many mothers over decades and centuries have attested to the fact that they have grown to deeply love and value a child that was unplanned and wouldn't have had that opportunity should that pregnancy have been terminated. To allow late-term abortion denies a woman/couple that opportunity to rise above unexpected circumstances and will most likely lead to a greater sense of guilt in future years over a decision that cannot be undone.

For these and many other reasons, I wish to oppose the proposed bill.

Glenn Smith
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