

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Abortion Bill  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 September 2018 11:59:56 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my concerns and opposition to the proposed late term abortion bill due to come before the QLD parliament in the next few months.

As a woman, I find it distressing that the proposed bill will allow abortion for any reason up to 22 weeks gestation and then from 22 weeks for what appear to be ambiguously defined reasons that would effectively allow abortion all the way to birth. The lack of safeguards for women places an agenda to advocate for abortion and encourage women towards abortion without providing access to independent counselling, informed consent condition or a cooling off period. From developmental psychology and basic biology, we know objectively that from conception, an embryo and foetus is a human being, with its own genetic code separate to its mother's. If the QLD government is to legislate to allow the termination of a human life, it least needs to ensure that women have access to all the relevant information and can make an informed decision about something that will effectively end their own child's.

The recent push for abortion under the guise of defending women and protecting our reproductive rights, really does nothing to address the stigma around an unplanned pregnancy. Access to abortion isn't the answer, changing our attitudes to unplanned pregnancies, support for young mothers and changing our adoption laws is. In the same way that institutions for 'fallen women' brushed the issue of unplanned pregnancy under the rug, to the detriment of nearly all involved, so to does abortion. It is in a different form, but it in no way empowers women. It leaves women in difficult situations feeling like an abortion is the only way out. It isn't and that should not be the case. The real issue here is the stigma attached to unplanned pregnancy, abortion does nothing to right this wrong.

150m meter exclusion zone around clinics is also concerning. Where pro-life advocates are greeting staff and women accessing the services of clinics in a way that is aggressive and insensitive is wrong and should not be condoned, these advocates often are the last line of defence, asking women to consider the consequences of their actions before committing to a procedure that will end the life of another human being. If the parliament really has issues with this advocacy, they should at least make provisions in any future legislation that makes independent counselling and informed consent mandatory in all instances.

Beyond these concerns, I am also upset to see that the proposed bill will allow for sex-selective abortion. The fact that something of this nature can be tethered to 'women's rights' is offensive. It is a terrible irony that we will fight tooth and nail for women's rights, but only if that woman can, in fact, survive the first 9 months in utero. A child, once conceived is human, and should be afforded the rights and protections that any human out of the womb would receive.

There are also issues with health professionals who object to these procedures. There is a stark contrast between what it takes to pass a bill in parliament, and what it takes to action that legislation on the ground. Doctors and other health professionals should not be placed in positions where they are being pressured into performing or referring for procedures they do not agree with. If so many of our health professionals take issue with abortion, perhaps we should listen to their concerns and give some credence to them.

Thank you considering my submission

Alisha Hudson  
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