

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Protest to Termination of Pregnancy Bill
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 10:18:30 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to protest the proposed changes to the Termination of Pregnancy bill to allow abortions over 22 weeks.

I am concerned for the well-being of mother and child - both physically and mentally. And for the family member that these changes will affect too, as they watch on.

I wish I had more time to write on this matter, but am in full support of the following statements;

- **Full decriminalisation of abortion would mean abortion would be legal in Queensland for any reason at all, effectively until the moment of birth.** Yet only 6% of Queenslanders support this extreme position, according to a YouGov Galaxy Research poll commissioned by cherish Life Queensland and the Australian Family Association in August 2018.
- **The existing Queensland law against abortion has a vital educative role.** It instructs society as to the seriousness of the act of abortion, while the removal from the criminal law of any references to abortion would tell society that this form of intentional killing is morally trivial.
- **Decriminalisation inevitably would increase the number of abortions** - which 87% of Australians already think is too high, according to a Sexton Marketing Group opinion poll in May 2005.
- **More abortions would hurt more women. With every abortion, the toll is one dead, one wounded.** Seventy-six percent of Queenslanders believe that abortion can harm the physical and/or mental health of women. There is overwhelming evidence about the serious physical and emotional effects of abortion on women, and as a consequence, on their families. Physical risks include infection, haemorrhage, infertility and breast cancer. Psychological risks include depression and other mental illness, suicide, attempted suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual promiscuity and general poor self-esteem.
- **The only changes to the law which should be considered are safeguards for women. According to a YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018, 88% of Queenslanders want women considering abortion to receive free independent counselling, and 85% want the woman to receive information** on the development of the unborn baby, the nature of the procedure, the physical and psychological risks of the operation and the alternatives of keeping the baby or adoption, so they can make a fully informed decision. A **cooling-off period** of several days between making an appointment to have an abortion and the actual procedure is supported by 79% of Queenslanders. And 65% of Queenslanders believe that **parental consent** to abortion should normally be required for girls under the age of 16.

A much-needed policy change is for Government funding to be significantly expanded to include pregnancy counselling services (such as Priceless Life) which offer real choice and support for women, including post-abortion counselling.

Please consider this matter with the health, well-being and best interest of children, women and families in mind.

Kind regards,

Zachary and Amy Saville

