From: <u>Trish Thomas</u>

To: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

**Subject:** Concern with supporting the Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018.

Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 10:13:19 AM

## Trish Thomas



To whom it may concern,

My concern is with you personally and the part you may play in potentially supporting the Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018.

Whilst I appreciate there may be specific conditions where a medical professional may deem an abortion is warranted, my apprehension aligns with the public concern of abortions performed for unwanted pregnancies, sex-selection and at such a late date in the gestation period. I also believe there is something far more critical that has been overlooked in the debate and is one that deeply concerns you as a representative Minister for our State of Queensland.

These are some highlights of my 60-year-old life experiences that highlight my philosophical assumptions. As a mother of three children, I was well aware of my child's distinct personalities in the womb. I watched my children grow and was ever amazed at how many of their movements and personality traits were relatable to when I was carrying them in the womb. As a teacher of children with special needs, I learnt a 'new norm' and saw a celebration of life in the 'true sense' of diversity. More recently, I was by my 86-year-old father's bedside when he took his last breath. The labouring he experienced in his final days was highly reminiscent of child birth. With his final breath there was a distinct awareness amongst the family members present, that our father (husband) was gone. His body was a mere vessel of his soul.

I believe if you sign this bill in favour of abortion, your fingerprints will be on the lives of all those unborn children. The sanctioning of the termination of one's life, historically has never been something valued, respected or appreciated by contemporary or future generations.

I would encourage you to think carefully.

There are many individuals and groups who have the patience to help those in desperate circumstances. In fact, it allows for the heroic rising of suburban legends.

Please consider the broader picture before you knee jerk and open the gate to the demands of those who perhaps are not prepared to accept the consequences of their choices and actions. Trusting in the reforms suggested by those representing the Queensland Law Reform Commission, may be a soft option but not necessarily the right one. The QLRC is made up of mere individuals who eat, sleep, work and put out the garbage just like the rest of us. The burden they are transferring to your shoulders you may find, in the long term, will result in a heaviness far too great to bear.

You may concede to the termination of life, but who has authority over the soul? With concern.

**Trish Thomas**