

From: Jessica Stephens
To: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Subject: Abortion Bill 2018 submission
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 8:13:09 AM

Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 Inquiry - Jessica Stephens- [REDACTED]

The online submission was not working so i have emailed my answers from that.

Lawful terminations - not more than 22 weeks pregnant

Clause 5 of the Bill allows that a medical practitioner may perform a termination on a woman who is not more than 22 weeks pregnant. Clause 10 of the Bill provides that a woman who consents to, assists in, or performs a termination on herself does not commit an offence. Clause 22 of the Bill repeals Sections 224 to 226 of the Criminal Code which make it an offence to terminate a pregnancy.

Do you agree that terminations should be lawful on request up to 22 weeks?

- Yes
 Undecided
 No

terminations are already widely performed, it will be even more common and also at the expense of the tax payer. Why should the tax payer have to pay for the cost of these procedures?

There is evidence to suggest that 1 in 5 women suffer severe psychological issues as a result of termination.

88% of Queenslanders believe that counselling should be mandatory to all women before making a final decision.

Even at the early stages the foetus or baby that i refer to it, has a heart beat and is therefore living and has a right to life.

Lawful terminations - more than 22 weeks pregnant and with the agreement of two medical practitioners

Clause 6(1) of the Bill allows that a medical practitioner may perform a termination on a woman who is more than 22 weeks pregnant if the medical practitioner considers that the termination should be performed, and has consulted with another medical practitioner who also agrees that the termination should be performed. Clause 6(2) of the Bill outlines the matters which a medical practitioner must consider when considering whether a termination should be performed - these being all relevant medical circumstances, the woman's current and future physical, psychological and social circumstances, and the professional standards and guidelines that apply to the medical practitioner in relation to the performance of the termination.

Do you agree that terminations should be lawful beyond 22 weeks with the agreement of two medical practitioners?

- Yes
 Undecided
 No

Only 6% of Queenslanders support late term terminations and only 8% believe that sex - selective abortion should be allowed. Given the clearly low numbers for support why is the Government even considering this?

The baby is well and truly resembling a human being at this stage and well and truly has a heart beat, abortion at this stage is purely just killing a human. Everyone has a right to life and these babies are having their right to life taken away from them.

Lawful terminations - more than 22 weeks pregnant and in an emergency

Clause 6(3) of the Bill allows that a medical practitioner may, in an emergency, perform a termination on a woman who is more than 22 weeks pregnant if the medical practitioner considers it necessary to perform the termination to save the woman's life or the life of another unborn child.

Do you agree that terminations beyond 22 weeks should be allowed in an emergency?

- Yes
 Undecided
 No

There are next to no circumstances in which a termination would need to be performed to save the life of a baby. Even in patients with cancer there are usually treatments that can be used whilst the mother is pregnant and the intention is not to kill the baby, therefore a termination is not necessary. The abortion laws in Ireland are very strict and the doctors there attest to the fact that there is not one single instance in which a termination was necessary to save the life of a mother as there are other options.

Conscientious objection

Clause 8 of the Bill allows for a health practitioner to conscientiously object to the performance of a termination. The health practitioner is required to disclose their conscientious objection and refer or transfer the woman to another health practitioner or health service provider. The clause does not limit any duty owed by a registered health practitioner to provide a service in an emergency.

Do you agree with allowing a health practitioner to conscientiously object to the performance of a termination, except in emergencies?



Undecided

No

If you wish to explain your answer, you can do so here:

Christian doctors or doctors of faith or strong morals will likely stop practicing medicine if they are forced to perform these procedures and also people potentially considering studying medicine who object to this procedure will likely choose not to study medicine; which will cause a decline in the number of medical practitioners.

Clauses 11 to 14 of the Bill allow for the establishment of safe access zones at termination service premises. The safe zone applies to an area within 150 metres of the entrance of the termination service premises, unless a distance is prescribed by regulation. It also establishes penalties for prohibited conduct or restricted recording (including the publication and distribution of a restricted recording) within a safe access zone.

Do you agree with the establishment of safe access zones within 150m of the entrance of termination service premises and associated penalties for prohibited conduct or restricted recording?

Yes

Undecided



Very few people support this Bill as outlined by the percentages listed above of only 6% of Queenslanders supporting late term abortions. This figure is overwhelmingly low, it is unclear why the government would be considering it in the first place, all it will do is cause division and upset amongst the public.