

  
Subject:  
Fw: REMINDER: SUBMISSIONS ON LATE-TERM ABORTION BILL DUE, 12 noon this Wednesday 5 Sept  


Dear Committee Members

I wish to make a submission for your consideration on the *Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018*. The Bill, as it is currently drafted, contains several loopholes which could lead to circumstances where termination of pregnancy is no longer an option of last resort.

I have read the bill and recognise its intent to remove the termination of pregnancy from the criminal code and place it instead into a health context. I am broadly supportive of this intent. Women facing the difficult choice of terminating their pregnancy should not be treated as criminals if they proceed with the termination, however, safeguards need to be put in place to ensure that any decision made by the woman is informed and well considered. This Bill I believe does not do enough about supporting women to make an informed decision or to provide her with support to do so.

Whilst I have read media reports of the Minister for Health criticising the Catholic Archbishop for misleading the public with regards to termination of pregnancies after 22 weeks, the actual text of the Bill makes it quite clear that terminating a pregnancy after 22 weeks is both provided for in the Bill and relatively easy to obtain. The idea about being able to take the life of foetus past 22 weeks to birth for reasons that are not specifically articulated in the Bill is abhorrent and dangerous.

I would urge the Committee to please consider strengthening provisions within the Bill to ensure that women considering terminating their pregnancies are firstly provided with comprehensive advice and support to make that decision. Further, the provision for terminations post 22 weeks need to be removed except for exceptional circumstances where the physical health of the mother is at risk.

In closing, I would like to leave Committee members with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi who said that a nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members. Members of the Committee, I submit to you that the unborn children of our society are one of the most vulnerable and that we as members of society have a right and duty of care to provide them with that protection, after all since when did the right to life, become a privilege afforded to a few?

Thank you for considering my submission



Benjamin Christopher Norris

Gloria Desouza

Jill Goodhew

John Desouza

Jyoti Pillai

Maria Noronha

Martin Barretto

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