To: <u>abortionlawreform</u>

Subject: Submission to the Committee RE: Abortion Law Reform

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Dear Committee Members,

I'm am writing to you this evening, to express my views of the Abortion Law Reform (Woman Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016

Currently under Queensland law, it is illegal for an unborn life to be aborted. I believe this law should NOT be changed.

Firstly, I don't believe that anyone (let alone our parliament) has a right to decide when a unborn child should be aborted? Would any doctor be willing to tell a mother that her baby is not actually "alive" from before 20 weeks? If the baby is not alive at the moment of conception, at what point in time is the baby actually alive?

Secondly, amending this law removes protection from our unborn. While the member for Cairns would claim this is done for the sake of saving a mothers life in an emergency – I believe that the vast majority of abortions are carried out purely for the sake of convenience. Every woman that I've spoken to who has had an abortion has said they did it simply because they didn't want to have the baby.

Thirdly – most mothers would gladly give their life for their baby. While I believe Queensland (and Australia) has the best medical practitioners in the world, I believe we do a grave injustice to mothers to be pushing them down the road to abortion – which is what I believe will happen. It will become to easy, and to convenient. From a personal perspective, it too my wife and I over 5 years to have a child – and as soon as we realised we were expecting, we were in love with our baby, and we would have gladly given our lives to protect him.

Finally, the Explanatory Notes claims the following: Alternative ways of achieving policy objective: There is no alternative way of achieving the policy objectives of this Bill.

The truth is that there is alternative ways to achieve this.

- 1. Provide more support, and make it easier to adopt babies who are not wanted. Allocate more funding to agencies that help place these babies in loving homes. Again, personally after 5 years of waiting for a child we were considering adoption, until we realised how hard, and how expensive it is.
- 2. Provide better education to children in school about the importance of saving sex until marriage. Abortion wouldn't be a problem if we weren't educating our young people on how to stay safe during sex, but encouraging them to abstain from sex until they are emotional mature enough to understand the consequences of their actions.

For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them Psalm 139:13-16

Even when a woman doesn't realise she is pregnant, the Bible says that God is watching that tiny life developing "when as yet there was none of them". If God considers the unborn worth watching, are they not worth the continued protection of the state?

Thank you for considering my submission.

God Bless,

Reverend Jason Gration
Pastor – HopeDivine Pentecostal Church

