

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [abortionlawreform](mailto:abortionlawreform)  
Subject: Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016  
Date: Friday, 24 June 2016 4:07:37 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

I seek to submit an opposition to the proposed Bill on Abortion Law Reform.

The Bill to decriminalise abortion means the loss of safeguards against an act that is already being performed too frequently in society even today. Termination of any life should never be anything less than a criminal act.

The Bill would allow near term foetuses to be terminated. Currently this can only be permitted in case of a significant risk to maternal life, which should be left to specialist obstetricians to make the harrowing decision to terminate a pregnancy. Legalising abortions without such a safeguard means cases of unwanted pregnancies have an easy, 'no fault' avenue to destroying the miracle of a new human life, which begins at conception.

Contrary to the proposed needs for decriminalising abortion, women are not empowered or freed by permitting abortions, they are most likely going to be permanently damaged by it, emotionally, psychologically, and even physically. An apt quote from Megan Clancy encourages us to find a better way of addressing the problem that prompted the perceived need to decriminalise abortion:

*There are women who are raped and become pregnant; the problem is that they were raped, not that they are pregnant.*

*There are women who are starving who become pregnant; the problem is that they are starving, not that they are pregnant.*

*There are women in abusive relationships who become pregnant; the problem is that they are in abusive relationships, not that they are pregnant.*

As a doctor, I am made frequently aware of the precious and fragile nature of each unborn baby. As adult custodians of defenseless new human lifeforms, we ought to take careful responsibility of each baby, at every stage of their development. We are at high risk of heading

down a slippery slope of degenerating ethics with each important check and balance like this that we forfeit. Please help us to find more socially constructive ways of dealing with the problems of unwanted/unintended pregnancies. Please therefore consider these points when making your decision and recommend rejection of the Bill.

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