

27th June 2016

The Research Director; Health, Communities, Disability Services & Domestic & Family Violence
Prevention Committee,

Parliament House,

George Street, BRISBANE.

Dear Sir/Madam,

SUBJECT: ABORTION LAW REFORM – WOMENS’ RIGHT TO CHOOSE AMENDMENT BILL 2016

I urge you to consider carefully the abovementioned Amendment Bill with the intention to remove Sections 224.225.226. and to provide no protections and safeguards.

We as a civil and just society need to protect both the unborn child and the mother. We champion ourselves as a society which believes in human rights and the most fundamental right is the Right to Exist – to be born, without which all other rights are irrelevant. You yourselves have been afforded this Right, can you deny this Right to another?

Legislation to remove this right constitutes a criminal offence, because it ends the life of the unborn child. Current legislation states that there is protection for the mother, as it is considered legal “If performed to prevent serious damage to a woman’s physical or mental health”.

As there were 10,000 abortions performed in Qld in 2015, women are therefore protected, although one would question that 10,000 women had physical or mental health problems in regard to their pregnancy.

This Bill, designed to allow abortion, on demand, up until birth has many chilling and distressing implications.

- (1) LATE-TERM ABORTIONS Health Minister, Mr. Cameron Dick, on June 13, released figures that there were 27 babies who survived late - term abortions and were left to die, in 2015. The total figure over 10 years was 204. The procedure for addressing this situation is absolutely alarming. These babies would have been classified by law as “a viable human” entitled to the protection of their right to life as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 3. Any neglect to preserve their life under Australia’s ordinary criminal code could constitute “unlawful killing or unlawful act of abandonment of the duty of care. If a child took a breath, the onus is on the doctors to preserve the life, and in the absence of appropriate medical intervention, it could constitute as wilful murder”. (Rocco Mimmo – Australian Lawyer)
- (2) OBJECTION OF CONSCIENCE The proposed Bill also does not address protection for doctors and other medical staff who have an objection, because of their informed conscience, to performing, or being involved in, abortions.
- (3) PARENTAL CONSENT FOR MINORS There is no provision for parents of minors to be informed. This situation has many concerning implications for both parents and the young woman. This usurps the parent’s rights, and presents possible dangers to the life and health of the young woman.

- (4) INFORMED CONSENT FOR THE WOMAN - There is no information given to the woman, in regard to development of the unborn child, or on the risks, and possible consequences, of having the abortion. With all medical interventions, full information is given before the person signs to consent to the intervention. This does not occur and most importantly, it does not occur in regard to the psychological consequences related to the abortion.

With regard to information on the development of the unborn child, I have heard post- abortion women state publicly that if they had been given this information, they would not have aborted their unborn child. Organisations who specialise in this area confirm this, and call frequently for this information to be provided.

Concerning the psychological consequences of having an abortion, as a Social Worker I counselled women whose underlying problem was the psychological effects of having an abortion, although that may not have been the presenting problem. In response to the need for specialist counselling and support for post –abortion women, organisations such as “Rachel’s Vineyard” which offers retreats for healing and support for post-abortion women and private counselling by Ann Lastman, herself having experienced abortion and its consequences, have been established.

The best option for preventing the social and health issues which women who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy is to offer support for both the woman and her unborn child. Organisations such as Pregnancy Help Inc. and Priceless Life Centre which offer accommodation, financial assistance counselling and other practical assistance should also be acknowledged and publicised by Dept. of Health. Our society needs to look at other options, rather than proposing horrendous, and totally unacceptable Abortion Law, to address a major social, and personal problem.

Thank you

Sincerely

Helen M. Bowman

HELEN BOWMAN

