

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [abortionlawreform](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Saturday, 25 June 2016 6:15:28 PM

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Dear Committee Members

I request that you recommend against the above bill in its current form when reporting back to the Queensland Parliament.

As a Christian, I believe that every human life has intrinsic value, as we are all made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This extends to babies who are still in the womb, as I believe that personhood starts at conception (Psalm 139:13). For this reason, I am opposed to abortion in any format.

I also oppose this bill as it would allow abortion to be carried out for any reason, at any time, up to birth. I find this problematic for a number of reasons:

1. It is my understanding that babies are viable from around 23 or 24 weeks.

Much of the literature around abortion, including the title of the proposed Bill, is framed in terms of 'women's choice' or 'women's rights'. But this is only one side of the discussion - what about the choice and rights of the unborn baby? Do they not also have a right to life that must be protected?

Allowing abortion past viability sends the message that people are disposable if they are not convenient, or not perfect. This is something that people are against after birth, for example the recent case of baby Gammy, and the many groups that support and seek to raise awareness of the needs of disabled people, but for some reason is an acceptable belief if the baby is still in the womb. I do not see the difference - if someone should be protected after they are born, they should be protected before they are born.

2. There is increasing research showing that having an abortion, even when entered into willingly and with full medical supervision and support, is a traumatic procedure for the woman, her partner and their families.

Surely we would want to reduce this trauma as much as possible, for both the sake of the people involved, and also to avoid the increased healthcare costs that will be incurred as more traumatic situations are entered in to under the proposed laws.

3. The proposed Bill further entrenches the idea that sex is a consequence free action.

Part of having choice is knowing the consequences of your actions and accepting that these consequences may arise if you make certain choices. In this context, the choice that a woman makes to have sex must be made understanding that a potential consequence of her choice is that she could fall pregnant. If a woman is not ready to deal with the consequences of her choice to have sex, then I believe she should reconsider this choices, and not put herself in the position where her choice is between her comfort and the life of her baby.

As a woman, I agree that I should have complete choice over what I do with my body, including what I eat, how I dress and who I have sex with, or even whether I have sex at all. However, as soon as I become pregnant, my choices affect not just me but also my baby.

If there was no choice to have sex, such as pregnancy occurring from rape, or where the choice is actually between the life of the mother or the life of the baby, there should be allowances for early term abortion.

4. The proposed Bill further entrenches the idea that personhood is defined by intention.

How can we say that a foetus is a person if you want it or intended to become pregnant, but just a cluster of cells that a woman can choose to dispose of if the foetus is not wanted.

Surely a foetus is either a person or not, and so deserving of protection of its life, or not.

I can sympathise with Mr Pyne's comments that 'abortion should not be a crime.' I certainly would not want to see any woman be jailed because she has made the what is often a very difficult decision to terminate her pregnancy, or a doctor penalised for assisting a patient to carry out a procedure his patient has decided to undergo. However, there must be a better way to protect the rights of unborn babies, while also supporting any woman who does unexpectedly fall pregnant, without resorting to allowing abortions at any time for any reason.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Regards,  
Danielle Mutzelburg

