

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [abortionlawreform](#)  
**Subject:** Support the abortion law reform bill  
**Date:** Sunday, 26 June 2016 9:11:54 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I support the abortion law reform bill and would like my views to be noted by this committee. The criminalisation of abortion places additional hardship on women, often young women, who are facing an extremely difficult decision. It is wrong for control of an individual's body to be ceded to the State. When the State attempts to force a pregnancy to be continued to birth, it utilises the body of a citizen to produce a result that some in the community prefer. It overrides the preferences of the party with the most relevant interest in favour of special interest group. This is not accepted in any other context. Even the dead have rights over their bodies regarding organ harvesting where arguably more lives are in the balance. Can a woman have less rights than this? Criminalising abortion does not respect the autonomy of individuals and the complexity of the situations that are part of all lives. It places the state in the position of exerting a paternalistic judgement in a context where it has no business.

Yours sincerely

Donna Mullaly

[REDACTED]