

Patricia Taylor

To abortion law reform committee,

As you consider the implications of the law reform being proposed by Mr Pyne, I would hope you could listen to some of my personal experience.

It was recommended to my mother that I be aborted. She was at risk. Thankfully she did not take that advice, she survived as did I. They were wrong. It might sound flippant but I am not sure you realize what impact that has had on me and my life! I am here because my mother stood up to pressure to abort.

Speaking from the one who was at risk of being aborted **please do everything you can to prevent it happening to other children.** I now have a voice – they, sadly do not.

My husband's family was in a situation of infertility. With 3 sisters on IVF and adoption lists for over 10 years we understand the desperation and grief these childless couples go through. To realize the massive void between those desperately wanting children and those who do not want to keep theirs – there is an opportunity to help so many couples and **end their torture on both sides!** To encourage, support and help mothers keep their children to full term has to be our goal. To then, if circumstances are that they cannot keep their children for whatever reason, give these children an opportunity to live with a family that is desperate for them to unite them into a family. Why is this option discouraged?

I understand the difficulty of unexpected pregnancies. Being a teenager and finding myself pregnant the pressure to have an abortion was very high from many sides. But having my past I knew this child was already a person and had a right to live. I could not make the choice to take this child's future away. It was not my right. What seemed a terrible mistake at the time has turned into my son – my joy – my pride.

I urge you to not change the laws to make it legal for abortions just because you are inconvenienced! The bill changes to the law does not support women found in this situation – it is to help abort children easily. Full stop. Abortion should not be the normal encouraged response to an inconvenience. Support would mean supporting the child too and that is not abortion as a choice.

Regards
Tricia Taylor