

Monday, 27 June 2016

Research Director,

The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention  
Committee

Parliament House.

Dear Director,

I respectfully submit a response to the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right To Choose Bill) 2016.

At the heart of the issue of law reform with regard to abortion in Queensland is the worth of the unborn human being. With its provision for criminal charges against women and/or doctors who arrange for an abortion, the current law recognises that the killing of an unborn human being is wrong and as such serves to protect the life of the unborn child. In section 282, it does provide for exceptions where the mother's health is at risk.

In the arguments supporting the Abortion Law Reform bill, the worth of the unborn human being is completely ignored. Rather, the focus is only on the rights of women. It is said that the current law is "causing great hardship and personal suffering" although the only statistic provided is that given by Children by Choice, namely "118 contacts relating to self-abortion or threats of self-abortion in the past year". According to its own research, Children by Choice estimate that there are about 15000 abortions performed in Queensland every year. If this be true, then the 118 cases referred to above are just 0.8% compared to the number of women who had abortions. This would not indicate that the law as it currently stands is indeed causing great hardship and personal suffering.

Another argument for the proposed bill is that procuring an abortion is a "basic human right". Since when has it been a basic human right to kill another human being even if that human being is still in the mother's womb? Given that a woman does have control over her own body, it does not give her the right to have a doctor kill her unborn child.

The law with regard to abortion needs to be both just and compassionate, demonstrating care and protection both to pregnant women and to their unborn children. If the law is to be amended, it should serve that end. That 15000 women have abortions each year in our state is a tragedy. The proposed amendment is simplistic and will do nothing toward lowering the number of abortions each year; rather, it may well cause an increase. It provides no protection for the unborn.

Any changes to the law should equally give worth and protection to both pregnant women and to unborn human life from conception to birth.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Davies

President, Cherish Life Queensland, Gympie Branch.

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