



Joshua Howard

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to make a submission regarding the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 and Inquiry into laws governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland.

Scientific and biological fact prove that human life begins at the moment of conception. According to the American College of Pediatricians in 'When Human Life Begins' in March 2004, "human life begins at conception – fertilization ... Scientific and medical discoveries over the past three decades have only verified and solidified this age-old truth. At the completion of the process of fertilization, the human creature emerges as a whole, genetically distinct, individuated zygotic living human organism, a member of the species homo sapiens, needing only the proper environment in order to grow and develop."

An unborn child's pain system is fully established 20 weeks after fertilization, and they can react to outside stimuli such as sound, light and touch. Typically a baby can survive outside the womb any time from 24 weeks after fertilization. One of the most common abortion procedures is the Dilation & Evacuation method, which involves using sharp-edged instruments to grasp, twist, and tear the baby's body into pieces. Another method involves injecting poison directly into the baby's heart to induce a heart attack, before removing the baby from it's mother by dismemberment.

If an unborn fetus is in fact a human child, then our laws should protect sanctity of life for all, especially our most vulnerable members of society who have done no wrong and are unable to defend themselves. In the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children. Just this month Health Minister Cameron Dick released figures showing that twenty-seven babies survived late-term abortions in Queensland but were not rendered care and allowed to die. This is inhumane and should be illegal.

While I respect that women, as all humans in a free society, should have the right to make decisions regarding their own body, it should be recognised that an unborn child is a human being who also deserves dignity and respect, and the protection of the law. Where a woman's choice means the murder of another innocent human being, this is not fair or just.



In the United States, the Center for Medical Progress released large volumes of footage from an undercover investigation of the organisation Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in that country. They revealed definitively that Planned Parenthood was deliberately altering abortion procedures to procure intact baby body parts to sell to medical research companies. Planned Parenthood is federally funded with taxpayer money, and they have gotten away with this corruption because it is a lucrative business. This is worth taking into consideration as a possible outcome down the road if abortion becomes legalised throughout our nation.

The law should absolutely provide for conscientious objection by health providers. As the unborn child is a human life, abortion is technically murder. This breaks the Hippocratic oath and also may go against the religious and/or moral convictions of the doctor involved. While I understand there are some difficult situations where the mother's life is in danger and treatment for her involves risking the baby's life, these are the exception, not the rule. This is a difficult area and I believe some room must be left for judgement calls on the part of the doctors involved.

Rather than punishing women seeking abortions, the law should seek to punish doctors or medical organisations offering them illegally. The government should also focus on providing support for women experiencing unplanned pregnancies and considering abortions. This should include counselling, as well as making it easier to adopt children in Australia. There are many Australians who would love to have children but can't fall pregnant for various reasons, and it is very difficult to adopt within Australia at the moment. This should be an ideal to strive toward, where the child's life is not sacrificed just because a woman isn't ready to raise and support them herself.

I hope you will take my submission into consideration, as I believe there are better ways to help women deal with unplanned pregnancy that can preserve the lives of all involved.

Regards,
Joshua Howard

