

From:
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016. Dr Belinda Goodwin, [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 12:08:57 PM
Importance: High

30th June 2016

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, Parliament House ,
George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee

Re: Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016

My name is Dr Belinda Goodwin. I am a medical doctor (MBBS, University of QLD 1999), a mother to 8 living children aged 2years to 15years and 3 unborn children that were lost through miscarriage all in the last year.

I am gravely concerned with the proposal of the Abortion Law reform Bill 2016 for both professional and personal reasons. Abortion is the intentional destruction of a human life, that left safe in its mothers womb would result in the birth of a live baby.

The government currently does very little to support women in crisis pregnancy or women in general. Abortion fails to acknowledge the much bigger problem of why women feel that the only solution they have is to destroy the life of their child. Abortion can never change the fact that a women was pregnant. It does not erase a pregnancy it merely ends the life of a living and growing human being. The result of abortion, both physical and psychological is massive and it is this area of women's health that is poorly if ever dealt with by the health system.

The loss of an unborn child is terrible. In my case I lost 3 unborn babies at 9weeks 6 days unborn, 4 weeks 2 days unborn and 13 weeks 2 days unborn. Each of these miscarriages of my unborn children was intensely painful emotionally and the grief and sadness was like nothing I had ever experienced before. The loss I felt was inconsolable. The only peace that I have is that my babies were very much wanted and so very much loved and they are now in heaven. At these very hard times, over the past year, with the loss of each of these unborn babies, I had overwhelming love and support from my husband, family and friends. I have named my babies and buried the bodies of 2 of them. The journey of healing and acceptance has only just started for me.

How much worse must it be for a woman who is so easily offered an abortion. At a time of crisis and intense hormonal fluctuations, these women are made to believe that abortion will make everything better so they can resume their lives. The doctors make their money, the government funds it and the woman is left alone to cope with the fact that she chose to destroy the life of a child. This is not the way we should as a country be treating our women. With a lack of support and counselling services and help for women to keep their baby and still have the options for work and education, these women often have no choice and are forced into having an abortion. The effects of post-abortion syndrome are very real and very severe. The psychological grief and anguish can last for years, if not a lifetime, and cause a massive impact on the mental health of these women. The number of women that are suffering from post-abortion syndrome is high and is rising.

As a medical doctor it is of grave concern to think that health professionals will not have the right to conscientiously object to being involved in either abortion or abortion referral. This takes away an individuals right to their freedom for choice.....and their freedom to practice medicine as they see it should be practiced.....that is, as a healing profession that 'first does no harm'.

I oppose this bill that is being proposed by Rob Pyne MP

Yours faithfully

Dr Belinda Goodwin

Contact details:
Dr Belinda Goodwin