

TO: The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland

I would like to draw to the attention of the House to my opposition to the most dangerous and extreme abortion laws in the world which is outlined in the Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill 2016 tabled on 10 May 2016 by Cairns MP Rob Pyne. This would allow abortion for any reason (including gender) up until birth, without any safeguards for either the mother or the baby. This includes babies viable outside the womb who could then be killed or left to die for no medical reason.

With improved medical science and ultrasound technology, we know that the child in the womb is human and can feel pain. Therefore, dismemberment and poisoning of an unborn child is barbaric. It is misleading to say abortions cannot be carried out under the current Queensland law, since around 10,000 are performed every year and no person has ever been convicted under this law. Last year 27 babies who survived abortion were left to die, without any pain relief or medical attention. These numbers will only increase dramatically, if abortion is decriminalised in Queensland, as has been the case in Victoria since the Victorian Government's law change in 2008. By decriminalising abortion, we are making it easier to kill human beings at the most vulnerable stage of their development and at the same time increasing the psychological and physical health risks for women at the most vulnerable time in their lives. The Queensland government should be making adoption more accessible rather than abortion. For these reasons, we need to shift the focus towards supporting women and protecting the unborn rather resorting to the cruel and inhuman alternative of unrestricted and indiscriminate abortion. Medical staff are often left traumatised at having to assist with late-term abortions. This is Australia's greatest social injustice and crime against humanity.

A woman's right to choose an abortion should not be absolute, that is without any limitations while there are other areas of the law which impose restrictions on ones choices; for example drug taking which like abortion affects the safety and well-being of others. Technically, the unborn is a human person that is genetically different to its mother and equally deserving of the same rights of a child after birth.

I therefore, request the House to honour their pre-election pledges to the people of Queensland stating publicly that they would not weaken our current abortion laws. To respect the health and rights of women and the unborn child to be protected. I ask you to represent my voice and reject this irresponsible bill which removes all safeguards for women and unborn babies.

Anna Pham-Nguyen