

From: Trish Etherton
To: abortiolawreform@parliament.qld.gov.au
Subject: Objection to "bill to kill" - Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill 2016
Date: 30 June 2016

I strongly believe that abortion, at whatever stage of the pregnancy, is murder, and that abortion should remain illegal in Queensland. Abortion is nothing other than a procedure which terminates human life. It is a crime against a defenceless human being. I find it astonishing that abortion is the leading cause of death in Australia, yet this fact is never publicised.

If there were to be any alteration to the time at which a human baby can have its precious life terminated by abortion, the term should be SHORTENED, NOT LENGTHENED. To lengthen the term is simply repulsive, and I fail to understand how another human being could even contemplate such an evil thought!

- **James Elgin Gill:** The record for the world's most premature baby belongs to James Elgin Gill, a Canadian man born at just 21 weeks 5 days in 1988. James was born so early that he was expected to die at birth or, if he survived, to have multiple and severe handicaps. James beat all of the odds though, and in 2006 was a healthy teenager heading off to college.
- **Amilia Taylor:** American baby Amilia Taylor was born at 21 weeks 6 days in October of 2006. Because Amilia was conceived by in vitro fertilization, her gestational age can be pinpointed exactly, an impossibility for most infants. Although she needed oxygen at hospital discharge, was anemic, and has mild osteopenia, she is otherwise a normal, healthy little girl.

See: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1021034/The-tiniest-survivor-How-miracle-baby-born-weeks-legal-abortion-limit-clung-life-odds.html>

When is a plant seed considered to be alive and growing into its intended life? Why is not a human being given the same consideration? It has been scientifically proven that an embryo has an audible heartbeat at around 4 weeks of gestation, and is a living being which has a God given right of passage.

It is often argued that the woman has the right to decide what happens to or within her body - this argument is baseless, because it is not her body that is being destroyed. The life within her has every right to come to fruition, yet this defenceless human being is given no rights and shown no respect.

Time and money would be better spent on such things as:

- changing the restrictive adoption laws making it easier for Australian people to adopt Australian babies;
- support for women/couples to adopt rather than abort the child;
- educating young women AND men on the possible consequence of partaking in sexual intercourse - including the possibility of an unwanted (inconvenient) pregnancy; the repercussions of the unwanted pregnancy; what actually happens in an abortion; what damaging effects abortion quite often has on the mind and/or body of all those involved; etc.

If there was a genuine life-threatening reason for the termination of a pregnancy (though I personally would still see this as murder), a team of Medical practitioners should be set up to determine this. I believe that a different set of laws would be necessary to cover this and all the implications that would undoubtedly arise. Keeping abortion illegal in Queensland would cancel the need to consider other problems that would arise if abortion were to be legalised - eg, Medical practitioners who consciously object to performing abortions on religious, moral or ethical grounds.

Thank you in advance for considering my submission.

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