

24 JUN 2016

Dear Ms Leanne Linard,

I am writing regarding the proposed abortion bill tabled by Rob Pyne. I passionately oppose such a bill. My first Grandson was recently born 8 weeks premature and the care of hospital staff and family that was lavished on him and his mother was beautiful to behold and testimony to the best aspects of our hospital system.

Regardless of a person's religious convictions or lack of them it is obvious that this child was at the time of caesarean section a person - another human being. He is still a helpless, vulnerable little infant but his family would give their lives to protect him.

To think that, under the provisions of this bill, children like this may be legally poisoned and dismembered right up to the point of birth and that even "partial birth abortions" will be permitted for no other reason than the request of their mother is plainly barbaric.

I do not wish to harshly judge women who come to this point. I appreciate the enormous pressures they can be under and the considerable emotional turmoil at work in their bodies during such times. However the role of government is first to protect the weak the powerless and the innocent.

Clearly this issue is not only about women's rights. The rights of the child deserve consideration. A more balanced compassionate approach would involve improved support for women with unplanned pregnancies and

facilitation of adoption as an alternative consideration.

Under existing legislation approximately 10,000 babies are killed in Queensland annually without any convictions being made.

The relaxation of abortion laws began during the 1970's and one of the strongest arguments at the time was that we had to allow women to control their own bodies to eliminate the terrible deaths and injuries caused by "backyard" abortions.

Now we have reached the point where 10,000 innocent lives are taken every year not to mention the trade in body parts that contributes to the profitability of this industry, we hardly need to remove the few remaining "safeguards" for women and their unborn children.

Free independent counselling, a cooling off period, parental consent for girls under 16 years, the right of conscientious objection provisions allowing doctors and nurses to opt out of having to perform operations against their will and a limit to the age at which abortion may be performed of 13 weeks or less are the least our laws could do to meet the wishes of most Queenslanders and achieve some level of protection for mothers & children.

Yours sincerely

Paul LeFevre