

From:
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: Preborn babies in Queensland deserve your protection
Date: Monday, 19 September 2016 8:02:22 PM

Dear committee members,

I call on the committee to oppose Rob Pyne's Health (Abortion Law Reform Amendment) Bill 2016. This bill aims to decriminalise abortion in Queensland and leave preborn babies with absolutely no legal protection until after birth.

I am particularly disturbed that this bill allows for abortion by any method and for any reason right up until the time of birth, because it has been established that unborn babies feel pain from at least 20 weeks gestation, and some studies have concluded that unborn babies experience pain as early as eight to ten weeks after conception. (<http://www.lifenews.com/2013/05/23/expert-tells-congress-unborn-babies-can-feel-pain-starting-at-8-weeks/>).

Yet if this bill is passed, babies could be dismembered whilst still alive right up until birth. And when abortion is decriminalised, late-term abortion rates soar: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/aborted-babies-being-left-to-die-20101006-167u0.html>

Furthermore, this bill gives doctors and nurses no peace of mind that they can't be compelled by their employers to partake in these gruesome procedures. It is true that the bill states that 'A person is entitled to refuse to assist in performing an abortion.' But then it effectively takes this right away in the very next paragraph by saying that an 'emergency' can be called and doctors and nurses compelled to kill the baby 'if the abortion is necessary to save the life of, or to prevent a serious physical injury to, the woman.' The committee should ask who makes the judgement whether an abortion is 'necessary' and whether a determination that the woman may kill or harm herself is sufficient to trigger this clause. If this is so, which the text of the bill leaves open, then medical staff could be forced to inflict great pain upon and kill babies by abortion, simply for psycho-social reasons.

I ask that at the very least the committee will recommend that MPs reject this bill, and so prevent many more babies in Queensland dying an extremely painful and traumatic death. But I also ask that you go further and recommend instead that all preborn babies in Queensland are given legal protection against the abortionist's scalpel.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Renai Ahlatis