

**From:**  
**To:** [Abortion Bill](#)  
**Subject:** Current proposed abortion bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 September 2016 2:18:46 PM

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Honorable members

As someone who opposes abortion except perhaps in the extremely rare situation where otherwise the mother will die, I am concerned at the lack of meaningful safeguards to protect the life of pre-born human beings. I understand that currently two doctors must certify that there is a danger to health, which can mean mental health (a completely subjective and easily manipulable criteria). The doctors can both work for the abortion clinic, and the second doctor need not even examine the mother.

I realise that in the current social climate there is negligible chance of stopping abortion completely, but I urge you to consider tightening the existing laws. For instance, you could require both doctors to separately examine the woman seeking the abortion, require that one or both be independent of the abortion clinic, and if the conclusion depends on claims of mental harm, require one or both to be actual psychiatrists. And you could require inspections to ensure that the law is being obeyed.

I note that some elements of our body politic are so committed to abortion that in some places they have passed laws to prevent silent protests or prayers near abortion clinics. This is an unreasonable infringement on our freedom. (I am not talking about people who accost clients or try to block entry, which should not happen). Some of the same politicians who want laws against peaceful protest would think it perfectly OK for a union to picket a factory and prevent anyone coming or going. This is a serious case of double standards. I hope you will prevent any such repressive laws being enacted in our State.

Yours sincerely  
Michael Cashman