

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Abortion Bill](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 September 2016 12:06:10 PM

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Dear Members of the Health Committee,

I wish to draw to your attention my strong opposition to MP Rob Pyne's second attempt to weaken Queensland's abortion laws with the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016.

It is clear that there is widespread community disagreement and disharmony amongst members of the community about altering abortion legislation as it currently stands. In fact, major polls clearly indicate that the majority, not the minority, believe there should be restrictions on abortion in Queensland. For example, a recent Galaxy Poll indicated 85% of Queenslanders were opposed to terminations after 20 weeks.

It is of great concern to me that the Pyne Bill fails to prescribe any indication of conditions where rights of unborn people may be considered.

I would like to point out that human beings develop at an astonishingly rapid pace. The cardiovascular system is the first major system to function. At about 22 days after conception the child's heart begins to circulate his own blood, unique to that of his mother's, and his heartbeat can be detected on ultrasound. At just six weeks, the child's eyes and eye lids, nose, mouth, and tongue have formed. Electrical brain activity can be detected at six or seven weeks, and by the end of the eighth week, the child, now known scientifically as a "fetus," has developed all of his organs and bodily structures. By ten weeks after conception the child can make bodily movements.

A new human life gestating in the womb is neither more nor less significant than that of the Mother. Both lives are deserving of support and protection. Wherever there is uncertainty in our community about when human life begins, the benefit of the doubt should go to preserving life.

Whilst this will always remain a very personal and soul searching issue, the rights of the unborn must be protected by Governments and Law Makers. I am writing to call on you to reject any attempts to change existing abortion legislation in Queensland.

Yours,

John Melville

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