

**From:** [Owen Hitchings](#)  
**To:** [Abortion Bill](#)  
**Subject:** Submission - Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 September 2016 4:28:49 PM

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I oppose the proposal to pass this bill into law for the reasons given below:-

#### Requirement that Two Doctors Sign-Off on Late Term Abortions

As the bill does not require that the second doctor involved see or speak to the patient, this is a meaningless requirement. Both doctors involved could work at the same clinic and could routinely sign each other's paperwork for reasons of profit. At any rate, there is no penalty in the case of an abortion being performed without a second doctor signing-off.

The provision is ridiculous as late term babies can be delivered by caesarian rather than being aborted and this is clearly safer for all. There are enormous waiting lists for adoptions.

#### Protective Zones for Businesses that Kill Babies

Peaceful protest or the offering of alternative should never be made illegal. In the context of this discussion, given the seriousness of the matter being discussed and the lack of alternative means of providing information to mothers considering abortion, such provision is clearly inappropriate.

I have participated in prayer/protest sessions outside abortion clinics and can recall an instance in which a woman entering a clinic thanked me and told me that seeing the group in which I was involved had changed her mind. She said she had intended going through with the abortion because of pressure from others.

#### Risk of Woman Being Charged Over an Illegal Abortion

No woman has ever been convicted under current law. Human life is worthy of protection. The current law is consistent with respect for human life.

#### Conscientious Objection

Doctors should not be forced to provide abortions and should not be forced to refer women to those others who do in any circumstances. There are no emergency situations for which such referrals are necessary.

#### Mandatory Counselling

The bill should obviously require that a woman considering an abortion be presented with the facts. It is clear that many women are not presented with the alternatives to abortion. Those who make money by killing babies obviously have an interest in encouraging abortion.

I would be pleased to present oral evidence to any hearings conducted by the committee.

Owen Hitchings  


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