

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: Submission regarding Abortion Law Reform Bill
Date: Sunday, 2 October 2016 12:33:17 PM

I am writing to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, to express my disagreement with sections 20, 21, 23 and 24 of the proposed Abortion Law Reform Bill that is currently before the committee.

In particular, regarding section 21, abortion after twenty four weeks is said to be justified if two doctors agree continuation of pregnancy is a risk to the women's physical or mental health. However, research by the British Journal of Psychology in 2009 found that "there is no evidence that suggests that the mental health risks of abortion are less than those of continuing with an unwanted pregnancy. To establish this would require a series of replicated studies showing that the mental health outcomes of those having an abortion are better than those of an equivalent series of women coming to term with an unwanted pregnancy. No such evidence exists. This situation creates a clear conflict between evidence on the one hand, and practice and the law on the other." [1]

In my own family, I have seen the decrease in mental health that often occurs in pregnant mothers who have miscarriages, and I am aware of individuals who suffer long term mental health issues as a result of choosing to abort they believed they were unable to support at the time of the abortion. Therefore, for the health and wellbeing of women in Queensland, of the men who oftentimes carry their own guilt (even when such actions were legal by law), and of the babies in the womb. I am sure the committee is aware of the numerous studies that have investigated pain felt by babies in the womb, many of which conclude that at least by 20 weeks of gestation unborn babies feel and react to pain.

In summary, I submit to the committee that the proposed bill be rejected as it does not promote the health and wellbeing of Queensland residents, and especially the health of both the mother and the unborn child. I believe the proposed bill will also increase domestic violence in our state, and as such, should also be rejected.

Yours sincerely,
Joel D. Lowe

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Contact Number:

[REDACTED]