



5 OCTOBER 2016

Inquiry Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and
Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

I am writing to ask the committee to reject the second Rob Pyne abortion bill for the following reasons :

Few people want a woman who has had an abortion to go through a second trauma of being charged with an offense and endure a trial, even if she is not convicted. However, the reality is that in the 117 years of the current law, no woman has ever been convicted or jailed. Section 225 of the Criminal Code should be retained as it acts as a deterrent to a woman taking the dangerous course of obtaining abortion drugs and self-administering them to herself without any medical supervision.

No one supports women being harassed or intimidated. However, this bill would make it an offense to peacefully protest, pray or even offer information and practical help to women within 50 metres. No other for-profit business has people offering alternatives to customers like the abortion industry has. Neither do they call for these extreme protections. This law will eat away at our democratic freedom of speech when the Parliament is to be the defender of freedom of speech and religion. People in other states have already been arrested and fined for trying to help. Parliament must reject a Bill criminalising citizens who wish to peacefully oppose late-term abortion, whilst also protecting those who carry it out for financial gain.

The requirement that abortions after 24 weeks have to be approved by two doctors is just a sham as the second doctor is not required to see or speak to the patient, look at her file or even be independent. Both doctors could work at the same for-profit abortion clinic.

There is no medical reason to perform abortion after 24 weeks of pregnancy, as there is never a situation in which a viable unborn baby needs to be killed to save the mother's life. For conditions such as pre-eclampsia, the best way to do this typically is with an early delivery via caesarean section. A late term abortion will only put the mother's life at further risk.

85% of Queenslanders do not want late-term abortions. Abortion removes the babies that childless couples could otherwise adopt – only 54 children were adopted in Australia last year to non-relatives.

94% of Queenslanders believe that before having an abortion, a woman should receive free independent counselling. The law on abortion should also require doctors to provide information to women as to the various risks of abortion, and make doctors liable for compensation by women if they fail to provide this full disclosure to women prior to an abortion.

Please protect the lives of our most vulnerable citizens

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Wardle".

Theresa Wardle

