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30th September 2016

Dear Committee members, I am very concerned about this second Abortion bill that Mr Pyne is trying to get passed by parliament which will allow late term abortions, one of the reasons that he is pushing for abortions is the threat to the womens health if they continue with their pregnancy.

I want to tell you about 2 personal friends of mine who were told that they were at risk of dying if they carried their babies to term. One of my friends was only 15 when she became pregnant as a result of sexual abuse by her stepfather, she was a very small girl and the doctors wanted to abort her baby because they were afraid that she would not be able to deliver her baby safely, she was a very timid girl, she would not tell the doctors who the father of her baby was, as she was very frightened of her stepfather and he had threatened her harm if she told anyone that he was the father of her child. That lady had her 78th birthday in August. She was able to escape from her stepfather and her baby was adopted. My friend later married and had another 5 babies, each pregnancy caused the doctors concerned but she safely delivered each baby. Many years later her first son searched her out and they were reunited and had many visits over the years, sadly he contracted cancer and died a couple of years ago. My other friend who is 82 years old was told after having her first child that she should not have any more children, the doctors were worried that she would not survive another pregnancy, she subsequently went on to have 9 children altogether, all healthy babies and of course adults now. Doctors do not always know what is going to happen to a person or when they are going to die, so please don't use that as an excuse to end an unborn child's chance to live. There are many more Queenslanders who oppose abortion and their views should be taken into consideration. I was very saddened when I read the statistics about the number of abortions already being performed in Queensland, I presume that that number would increase if this Bill is passed in Parliament. I am hoping that the committee will reject this Bill as it did the first one that Mr Pyne presented, for the sake of many unborn babies and their mothers. I am reminded of a man who told the story of how upset he was when his wife became pregnant with their third child, he wanted her to have an abortion, fortunately his wife was strong and refused to have an abortion, when that baby was born that man went through a terrible time of grief and guilt and was very grateful that his wife was strong and refused to have an abortion and it took a long time for him not to feel guilt whenever he looked at his baby to think that he wanted to kill that child but at least he could look at that baby and thank God that he could love and hold him.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E. J. Rolston