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Inquiry Secretary,

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee,

Parliament House,

George St

Brisbane

3/10 /2016

Nora King

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Dear Committee of Inquiry of Health, Communities, Disabilities and Domestic and Family Violence

Re Rob Pyne's Amended Abortion Bill 2016

My Name is Nora King and I am against the Amended Abortion Bill put forward by Bob Pyne.

I believe this new Bill will increase the amount of abortions in Queensland and not give women protection from abortion or other options.

My objections are – 1] that the unborn child is a separate person from the mother, mothers should be supported in their pregnancy, especially in unexpected pregnancy, but not by taking one life [that of the unborn baby] to support another life.

2] It is horrendous that the Bill would make it legal to torture to death a baby in the womb- this is definitely what abortion does.

3] Having an abortion ignores the harm posed to women by abortion- both physically and psychologically

4] The Bill includes no safeguards to ensure that women are given fully informed consent.

5] The requirement of 2 doctors who reasonably believe that the continuation of the woman's pregnancy would involve greater risk of injury or mental health, for a woman who is 24 weeks pregnant to have an abortion, does not hold authenticity as the second doctor is not required to see or speak to the patient or even look at her file.

Also, the second doctor doesn't have to be independent so it could be that the 2 doctors at the Abortion Clinic who would profit from the procedure would approve the late term abortion.

The Bill specifically states that if the rule were broken it would not be an offence for the doctor who kills the viable baby. There would be no penalty. A law without consequences is no law at all.

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 example, if a mother has a serious condition such as pre-eclampsia, the symptoms of which include high blood pressure and fluid retention, and the pregnancy needs to be ended, the best way to do this is typically by a caesarean section which would result in the health issue being resolved quickly and her baby being given every chance of survival with the best neo-natal care. There is no need to put the mother's health further at risk by the necessary delay in performing a late term abortion through feticide which involves killing the baby in the womb by an injection and then inducing labour whereby the mother delivers a dead baby several days later.

If the mother wants to end a late term pregnancy there is no reason why the baby has to be killed in the process. There are plenty of infertile couples who would love to adopt an unwanted baby. There are long adoption lists in Australia and last year there were 54 adoptions of Australian born children to non relatives. This is due in large measure to the fact that approximately 80,000 unborn children are killed by abortion in this country in a year. My friends adopted a baby boy 30 years ago and he had a wonderful upbringing and education. He is now married with his own child.

According to Galaxy Poll 2016, 85% of Queenslanders oppose late term abortions past 20 weeks.

In fact 72 % of Queenslanders are opposed to mid term abortions past 13 weeks of pregnancy.

This Bill includes no safeguards to ensure that women are given fully informed consent.

One lady who spoke for Cherish Life said she was given no alternative from her doctor except abortion and she now regrets having the abortion.

The new law introducing a 50 metre prohibited area around places where abortions are done will not allow even silent prayer. This is unconstitutional in Australia, where we have freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

One woman, Nancy Cairo, I spoke to, with her five year old daughter had been about to go into the abortion clinic to abort this five year old child when she struck up a conversation with someone outside the clinic and she poured her heart out about being pressured by the baby's father to have an abortion that she didn't want. Nancy clung to the hope offered to her by the tender care and non-judgemental attitude of the footpath counsellor from Helpers of God's Precious Infants [HGPI]. The counsellor offered practical help as well as emotional support. Nancy's little girl, Ava, was born to a grateful mum and Nancy feels blessed to have this dear little girl. Therefore it is important Not to include the 50 metre prohibited area around the Abortion

Clinic as people like Nancy could be forced into having an abortion by their partners or family or even feeling destitute as they fell utterly alone in this crisis situation. The latest Pyne Bill would make it an offence to peacefully protest or even pray within a 50 metre access to the Abortion Clinic. This is an abrogation of freedom of speech, expression, movement and religion and is an affront to our democratic rights.

The Bill ironically describes the proposed no-protest zones around abortion clinics as 'protected areas'. Of course, there is no protection inside the Abortion Clinic for either mother or baby, as with every abortion, the toll is one dead and one wounded.

My objections are – 1] that the unborn child is a separate person from the mother, mothers should be supported in their pregnancy, especially in unexpected pregnancy, but not by taking one life [that of the unborn baby] to support another life. Every person begins life at conception and we become our own person. The right not to kill another human being supersedes the right to not being pregnant. Pregnancy care centres as they have in America, is an alternative and this would exist to help women through emotional and financial stress of an unplanned pregnancy.

2] It is horrendous that the Bill would make it legal to torture to death a baby in the womb- this is definitely what abortion does. Beginning at the eight week of development, an unborn baby that is aborted feels pain during the abortion. The baby feels psychological and real, organic pain.

Surgeon Robert P.N. Shearin states that 'As early as eight to ten weeks after conception, definitely by thirteen and a half weeks, the unborn experiences organic pain. First, the unborn child's mouth, at eight weeks, then her hands at ten weeks and legs at eleven weeks become sensitive to touch. By thirteen and a half weeks, she responds to pain at all levels of her nervous system in an integrated response which cannot be termed a mere reflex. She can now experience pain'

Pioneer fetologist Albert Liley, of the University of Auckland , says that by the fifty sixth day after conception, the baby's spinal reflexes are sufficiently developed to feel pain. He adds 'When doctors first began invading the sanctuary of the womb, they did not know that the unborn baby would react to pain in the same fashion as a child would. But they soon learned he did.

Dr Liley's observation is graphically demonstrated in Dr Bernard Nathanson's classic film. 'The Silent Scream', the first widely circulated ultrasound of an actual abortion. It shows a child serenely resting in her mother's womb. Suddenly the child is alarmed because of the intruding abortion device. She moves as far away as she can, trying to desperately to save her life. Just before her body is torn to pieces and sucked out through the vacuum tube, her tiny mouth opens in an unheard scream of terror. After the abortion the doctor who performed it was invited to view the ultrasound. He was so upset with what he saw that he left the room. Though he had performed over ten thousand abortions, he never performed another one'

Source [REDACTED]

A woman does not commit an offence by performing, consenting to or assisting in an abortion on herself.

Few people want a woman who has had an abortion to go through a second trauma of being charged with an offence and endure a trial, even if she is not convicted. However the reality is that in the 117 years of this law's existence, no woman who has had an abortion has ever been jailed or even convicted.. She is typically not charged because her testimony is needed to convict the abortionist in any prosecutions which are brought (invariably arising from a complaint by the patient).

This was the case in the 1986 trial of Dr Bayliss and Dr Cullen, who faced charges of illegal abortion in the Queensland District Court based on a complaint by "Mrs T", a young married mother of two children who collapsed on the bathroom floor of her home haemorrhaging as a result of a botched abortion earlier that day at the Greenslopes abortion facility. She had to be rushed to hospital where she needed a hysterectomy to save her life.

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.

Passing the Bill would be a step backward for the health and protection of mothers and babies. The law on abortion should have safeguards for women and particularly be addressing a woman's right to know. Ninety-four percent of Queenslanders believe that before having an abortion, a woman should receive independent counselling and information on the development of her unborn baby, the nature of the procedure, the physical and psychological risks of the operation and the alternatives of keeping the baby or adoption, so that she can make a fully informed decision.

I believe there should be a cooling off period for the mother of 3 days after she books into an abortion clinic so she has time to think about what she is doing and can make a fully informed decision after being given counselling.

Abortion has the intention of killing an unborn child. It is a medical solution to a social problem.

Women who have had an abortion often never get over it. Cindy Collins from Louisiana, USA spoke of her typical symptoms of post abortion traumas, eating disorders, suicidal ideation and more. When she eventually married and wanted to be pregnant she had to be in bed seven months in order to carry the baby as her body was damaged from having numerous abortions. Years later, after Cindy found healing in God's love, she has worked hard ever since to help women speak out about the hurt and harm of their abortions.

We know in Australia, abortion affects one in three women. Sometimes abortion is put forward, even taken for granted, as a “quick- fix solution” to the most difficult of situations. We cannot deny this decision ends the life of the unborn child. AT a time when many States around the world are turning back legislation on abortion, we cannot fail to protect women and the unborn child who deserve our special protection and care.

We call upon all State politicians to reject any moves to expand abortion legislation. Instead we want to see Australia and Queensland be a world leader in maternal care. Investing in compassionate care, including providing practical supports and services to support vulnerable women in crisis, is a better solution to abortion. No woman should ever feel that abortion is the only alternative. Women deserve better than abortion.

Yours sincerely

Nora King