

**To: The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, who are currently making enquiries regarding: The Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016**

**From: Olga Kirk**



I, Olga Kirk of 6 [REDACTED] Qld respectively make the following submission to the above Committee regarding: The Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016.

**Terms of Reference**

**Section 21** addresses an abortion on a woman more than 24 weeks pregnant. It states that an abortion may only be performed if two doctors reasonably believe the continuation of the woman's pregnancy would involve greater risk of injury to the physical or mental health of the woman than if the pregnancy were terminated.

**Comments:**

Section 21 is a sham and is misleading as it gives the impression to the reader that viable babies would be protected but they will not.

**1.** This provision of two doctors to give approval for an abortion does not protect viable babies. It is not a safe guard against mal practice. The second doctor is not required to see or speak to the patient or even look at her file. Also the second doctor does not have to be independent. If both doctors are from the same abortion clinic they may agree on the late term abortion for monetary gains.

**2.** The Bill states that failure by the first doctor to consult another doctor for approval of the late term abortion would not be an offense for the doctor who kills the viable baby. In other words there would be no penalty. A law without consequences is no law at all.

**3.** There needs to be an absolute ban on abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy. The baby with the best neo-natal care can survive outside the womb. The baby does not have to be killed to save the mother's life. Where the pregnancy has to be ended due to the mother's serious health issues a caesarean section could be undertaken thus saving both lives, or giving the baby a chance to live. With an abortion one person always dies, the baby.

For women wanting to have a late term abortion because they don't want the baby for various social reasons they need to be encouraged to complete the pregnancy and allow the baby to be adopted. Australians want to adopt children but there are not enough babies to meet the need as we are aborting them in large numbers each year (approx. 80,000 per year).

**Conclusion**

In conclusion I want to make it clear that I do not approve of abortion at any time during pregnancy, that is from conception to birth. The current Queensland Abortion Law adequately provides for those circumstances that are serious threats to a pregnant woman's health (eg an ectopic pregnancy or cancer of the womb).

Abortion is a medical solution to a social problem. We need to be more creative in finding an answer other than killing off ourselves.

The Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016 needs to be laid to rest.

**Closure**

This concludes my submission. I thank you for your time and consideration.

***Olga Kirk (Mrs)***