

**Health (Abortion Law Reform)  
Amendment Bill 2016**

**Submission No. 998  
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**From:**  
**To:** [Abortion Bill](#)  
**Subject:** Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Tuesday, 4 October 2016 3:49:11 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object against the provisions of the abovementioned Bill because it does not take into account the medically accepted viability of human foetuses to survive after 24 weeks of pregnancy and would therefore result in the following adverse situations:

1. If for valid medical reasons, a pregnancy has to be terminated after 24 weeks, every opportunity should be given to preserve the life of the child. Instead, there have been reports in overseas newspapers of babies who, after having been born alive after abortions, have either been suffocated or left to die in steel containers without care. This is barbarity.
2. It ignores the rights of the child to the viable life available to him or her after 24 weeks.
3. It ignores the rights of the father of the child to have a say in regard to the proposed abortion action.
4. The grounds for abortion set out in paragraphs (a) and (b) of Clause 21 of the Bill rely on subjective opinions of doctors only without reference to qualified psychologists of psychiatrists to determine the mental health of the pregnant woman. Consequently, similarly worded provisions in abortion laws in other States have invariably resulted in "abortion on demand."

Yours faithfully

Neil Hayter