

6th October 2016

Abortion.bill@parliament.qld.gov.au

Inquiry Secretary

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

Parliament House

Brisbane, Qld 4000

Dear Committee Members,

WE OPPOSE the HEALTH (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016

We are writing a submission in **OPPOSITION** to the new HEALTH (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016 and request that you **DO NOT recommend the passing of this legislation to legalise abortions in Queensland.**

We would like to make the following specific points in relation to this legislation: -

- Section 21 Abortion on women more than 24 weeks pregnant

This section requires two Doctors to sign off on late term abortions however it provides absolutely no protection to viable babies as there is no requirement that the doctor see or speak to the patient, look at the file or be independent. This means that the doctors could easily both work at the same for-profit abortion clinic. In addition, there is no penalty for the doctor who kills the baby so a law without any penalty would be ineffective. The mental health of women is damaged to a much greater extent through killing her own child than through any other option. Pregnancy is for a maximum of nine months after which time the child can be given to one of those couples who desperately wants children but are unable to conceive.

Further and very importantly ABORTIONS AFTER 24 WEEKS ARE NOT A MEDICAL NECESSITY to save a mother's life. **A viable unborn baby NEVER NEEDS TO BE KILLED to save the mother's life.** Please listen to Dr Anthony Levantio "[A Conversation with a Former Abortionist: Is abortion ever medically necessary?](#)" [REDACTED]. Dr Levantio worked in a hospital specially for high risk pregnancies and he saved hundreds of women from life threatening pregnancies by delivery these ladies of their babies (where necessary through Cesarean section), NOT through aborting them. The vast majority of life threatening situations in pregnancies do not arise until 24, 25, 26 & higher weeks of pregnancy when the babies can often survive outside the womb with proper care. Late term abortions take days to prepare the cervix so that it is large enough to dismember the baby so if an abortion was used to 'save the women's life' she would in fact be dead and would not survive. In Dr Levantio's experience of well over a decade, he NEVER had to kill a baby to save a mother's life. A pregnant mother can choose not to raise the child by putting the child up for adoption but should not have the option of "not being pregnant" through having a late term abortion.

- Section 23 Declarations for abortion facility

This section is establishing exclusive protective zones for abortion businesses. While we don't support women being harassed or intimidated, if this was to become law then it would be an offence to peacefully protest, pray or even offer information and practical help to women within 50 meters.

This is a huge threat to our democratic freedom of speech. It is vitally important that you reject a bill that criminalises citizens who wish to peacefully oppose abortions. How can you pass a bill that makes it a criminal offence to peacefully oppose the killing of innocent babies and the harming of women? Frightened women in crisis have been sold a very skillfully marketed product expecting a fix to only find out it is defective. Do not stop the possibility of these women being helped moments before the vast majority will at some time in their life regret and realise they made the worst decision of their life.

- Section 20 (3) is dealing with the risk of women being charged over an illegal abortion.

In reality no woman has ever been convicted or jailed under the current law so this is not a valid reason for changing the law. Section 225 of the Criminal Code should be retained to act as a deterrent to women self-administering without any medical supervision.

- Section 22 (3) – Duty to perform or assist in abortion

This section is dealing with conscientious objections however it states that a doctor and nurse has a duty to perform or assist in performing an abortion on a woman in an emergency if the abortion is necessary to save the life of, or to prevent serious illnesses to, the woman. **“AN EMERGENCY ABORTION” DOES NOT EXIST.** Refer to the information provided under Section 21 above. In the case of an ectopic pregnancy where the mother may die (as well as the baby) if nothing is done to remove the embryo from the fallopian tube this is a non-survivable scenario for the foetus and it has usually already died by the time it is discovered. This is not an abortion. Further the mental health of the mother CANNOT be used as a category for an emergency abortion since killing her baby will have a far greater and far reaching affect on her mental health.

- Only Doctors to Perform Abortions

The law should require that doctors provide all the information to woman as to the various risks of abortion. Doctors should be liable for compensation for failure to provide full disclosure prior to an abortion. Unfortunately, complications and negative health affects are NOT uncommon as a result of woman getting abortions and every possibility needs to be explained in detail. Not only the physical risks such as infertility, hysterectomy, damage to intestines even the extent of colostomies, death but the physiological effects both short and long term; post traumatic stress, years of nightmares about children, anxiety, anguish, tears, sleepless nights, the grief and shame, inability to bond with living children and suicides.

The law should require that women seeking abortions are doing so free from coercion from significant others. Women generally seek abortions because they don't feel they have any other option and are often coerced by others or the lack of support. Read the real life story of the anguish and pain felt by Lyn and the coercion she experienced: [REDACTED]

ADDITIONAL REASONS FOR REJECTING THIS SECOND BILL

The bill should be rejected as it is seriously deficient in a number of areas detailed below/

Mandatory Free Independent Counselling

The law should require that all women seeking abortions be given **MANDATORY FREE INDEPENDENT** counselling (over time and not just one quick session) by people who really care about women and not by people who are not endeavouring to sell an abortion as the quick fix to their problems. Doctors are not in a position to be doing this, nor are counsellors at an abortion clinic as they have a vested interest. Counselling needs to take place without other parties present who might be coercing her.

Detailed Information Provided

In addition, information on the development of her unborn baby, the exact details of the nature of the procedure such as these videos outlined below which very clearly outline the procedures by a doctor, 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. They need to be able to listen to real life stories of women sharing who have worked in abortion clinics and have seen first hand and also those who have experienced abortions. Allen E. Parker Justice Foundation states that "Women have constantly said: They didn't tell me I would suffer for years from my abortion, they didn't tell me I'd have nightmares about my baby, they didn't tell me I would regret it so deeply that I would rather kill myself then go on living... nah it's 10 minutes and you'll never have to think about it again... that is a lie." The information should be provided in person, face to face with the use of videos etcetera, the information should be provided electronically for example via email to make it easy to access additional links and also a printed informed consent booklet outlining all the above information along with contact numbers for alternatives and support agencies.

This is a mechanism to help prevent abortions that result from coercion by parents, boyfriends, partners, husbands or friends, teachers, doctors. There should also be a mandatory cooling-off period to give the mother time to think and process the information she has been informed of. A choice made in a time of confusion and fear is often the worse decision one makes and so then regretted for the rest of the person's life affecting the mental health of the people involved. In addition, detailed information on the abortion reversal pill should be provided and funding of a top quality website with all the necessary resources and FREE help lines such as this one in America [REDACTED] so women in Australia can easily access the help they need and not just be told it is too late.

Details of the nature of the procedure and risks:-

[1st Trimester Surgical Abortion: Aspiration \(Suction\) D & C](#)

[REDACTED]

[1st Trimester Medical Abortion: Abortion Pills](#)

[REDACTED]

[2nd Trimester Surgical Abortion: Dilation and Evacuation \(D & E\)](#)

[REDACTED]

[3rd Trimester Induction Abortion: Injection and Stillbirth](#)

[REDACTED]

Parental Consent Requirements

For girls under the age of 16 there should also be Parental Consent however this should be required along with independent counselling where the woman/girl accesses the counselling without other parties present so that she can freely express her wishes/desires/fears without intimidation or fear of others present who could very well be acting to coerce her into the decision to kill her child. Often it is significant others in the women/girls life who force the decision upon her against her will because they are determined in their mind that it is the best decision.

It is absolutely necessary that doctors seek to ensure the woman is seeking an abortion free from any coercion from significant others which can only really be done through thorough independent counselling. Sadly doctors often counsel women to get abortions. Counsellors provided by abortion clinics have a vested interest as they profit from abortions and are effectively a sales representative and the abortion is the product women are sold at the time of their greatest vulnerability. Women around the globe can attest to the emotions one can feel in pregnancy even in a normal wanted pregnancy let alone when a woman is frightened and in a crisis situation where she is being told she is too young, your life will be ruined, you won't be able to cope and she has no where to go to for help.

Life is sacred and should be protected

Every life is worth living. It is important that the lives of unborn babies are not sacrificed under the title of "Women's Right to Choose". Half of the babies aborted (or perhaps even more) are baby girls soon to be women if allowed to live... what about their rights? After conception a new life is created. Medical, biological and scientific writings all agree on this fact. A baby's heart is beating before the mother even knows she is pregnant. It is well documented and proved that babies feel pain beyond any shadow of a doubt from as young as 20 weeks but in reality it is well before this. We must by law protect this life. Abortion kills babies and harms many more; mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, friends, etcetera. I personally know three women who have been adversely affected by abortions and who have suffered much as a result and in some cases are still suffering emotionally, mentally and physically.

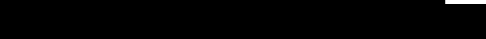
Abortion cannot be used as a birth control means when contraception's have failed. While a baby might not be "convenient" for the woman in question, nine months is a very short time when you consider the span of her entire life. **One woman has shared "Rather then just go through 9 months of a crisis pregnancy, I've gone through about 20 years of hell on earth... just by exercising my right to choose"**. If it looks like the child might have some disability or die soon after birth, then lets give the family the support they need to love and care for their baby while it lives and if they are unable to care for a baby with special needs there are people who will adopt these children as well. If she feels unable to care adequately for the baby or has no desire to, then she needs to be provided with other options such as adoption so she is not persuaded to believe the lie that abortion is "their ONLY option and will solve all their problems". We need to be seeking ways and establishing means for these women to give their babies life.

The **adoption process needs to be changed** so that it is easier for women who are in difficult situations to have real options that doesn't involve the killing of their baby and it should be provided free to women in crisis situations. There are so many couples who for whatever reason are unable to have their own children. Often these couples remain childless because the adoption process is so long, involved and stringent that it is daunting for couples to even go down that path and even if they do, there is an exceedingly long waiting period and no guarantees at the end.

We need to provide support networks and counseling for both men and women giving them tools to have strong, healthy and happy families and provide them with the parenting & financial budgeting skills they need to raise a family.

Abortion poses a long term risk to women

Inevitably the vast majority of women at some point suffer from major depression, anxiety, regret, guilt & shame as a result of having an abortion. These women often suffer privately being too embarrassed and ashamed to talk about it or if they do they are told to just get over it, it is just a clump of cells. Many suicides or attempts stem from the decision to abort. Often women have been told that abortion is the quick and easy fix and will solve all their problems only to discover that now they are in a much worse condition than before. Often women are pushed into an abortion by husbands, parents, grandparents, boyfriends, partners, friends, teachers or by their own fears and lack of support and knowledge. How many cases of child abuse, rape and incest are covered up by forcing these young teenage girls to have abortions. I personally know someone who was in this situation. Abortion poses a large number of risks to a women's immediate physical health and their ability to have future children. In addition to the many physiological affects some of which have been mentioned above. Further details can be found at this website

Read this real story here: 

CONCLUSION

Due to the fact that ABORTION POSES A LONG-TERM RISK TO WOMEN, it KILLS A BABY and all the other reasons stated above, we urge you to **OPPOSE** the HEALTH (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016 along with the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 AND any other Abortion Bills. We request that you **DO NOT recommend the Legalisation of Abortion in Queensland.**

Once again we urge you to ensure **that Queensland DOES NOT** make it legal to kill babies still in their mother's wombs. **PLEASE HOLD TO THE TRUTH and do more to protect the lives of the unborn babies and protect the health of women.** The killing of a baby does nothing to promote a women's health but puts them in a predicament where the decision is irreversible.

Yours Sincerely,

Jon & Susan Kirk
