

From:
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: Strong objection to the weakening of the Queensland" abortion Laws
Date: Thursday, 6 October 2016 12:23:19 PM

Inquiry Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services
and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House,
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

6/10/2016

Rehema Barry

Dear Secretary,

My name is Rehema Barry. I put my hand up with fellow Queenslanders who would like to draw to the attention of the House, our strong opposition to MP Rob Pyne's second attempt to weaken Queensland's abortion laws with the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016.

Following on from strong public rejection of Mr Pyne's first bill and the committee's recommendation that it fail, his second bill again disregards public opinion and global trends, allowing late term abortion for viable babies and adding exclusion zones which effectively limit free speech for doctors, nurses, hospital staff and the public.

While making abortion easily available for women looks progressive in the short term, in the long term it is not for the interest of either the individual or that of our country. While it allows women to have control of their lives and participate more in the economic development, it introduces other problems! My friend had a few abortions because

while she was married, she wanted to pursue her career first and then enlarge her family later. It has been nearly eight years since they decided to 'start the family' and nothing is happening! This story is not unique. The effect it has on the economy as people seek solutions to their predicament cannot be underestimated, as the scope of issues arising from it widen to include mental health, absence from work as a result, strain on family, not to mention the absence of Australian citizens whose lives and contribution to our economy are not to be realised!

This bill also appears to contradict itself and in so doing disregards the seriousness of the issue it addresses. Whilst stating that abortions must be performed by a doctor, the bill also allows women to perform their own abortion! It ignores community calls for independent counselling and protections for women. The first inquiry heard from medical experts that abortion is readily accessible under the current Queensland law, with around 10,000 per year performed and with no person ever being convicted under the law. Furthermore, Experts testified that the child in the womb is human, and deserving of Human Rights.

My petition to the House therefore is:

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honour their pre-election pledges to the people of Queensland stating publicly that they would not change current abortion laws

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respect the health and rights of women and the unborn to be protected

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respect the right of medical staff and the public to freedom of speech

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reject this irresponsible bill which allows 'backyard' self-

administered abortions

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reject this anti-woman, anti-foetus, hastily and ill-conceived abortion bill.

In conclusion, I express a strong strong opposition to MP Rob Pyne's second attempt to weaken Queensland's abortion laws with the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016. I hope that the Committee will consider all evidence when reviewing the Bill.

Yours faithfully

Rehema Barry