

## Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 11  
**Submitted by:** Deborah Norman  
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**Submitter Comments:**

Deborah Norman  
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The Secretary  
Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane, QLD, 4000  
[heac@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:heac@parliament.qld.gov.au)

4<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Secretary,

Re: Submission in Support of the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

I am writing to strongly endorse the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 and to urge the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee to recommend its support by the Queensland Parliament.

The Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 represents a significant advancement in upholding the human rights of infants born alive as a result of termination procedures. By enshrining in law, the duty to provide appropriate care to these vulnerable newborns, the bill aligns with Queensland's commitment to international human rights standards, as outlined in several key treaties.

Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the inherent right to life and states that "everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person." Similarly, Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises the right of every child to the highest attainable standard of health and calls for the provision of necessary medical care and attention to newborns.

Furthermore, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, in Article 12, emphasises the right of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. This includes the provision of medical care and necessary social services to ensure the well-being of individuals, including newborns born as a result of termination procedures.

The Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 is in direct alignment with these international treaties, as it seeks to ensure that all infants, regardless of the circumstances of their birth, receive the appropriate medical care and attention necessary for their survival and well-being. By codifying these principles into law, Queensland demonstrates its commitment to upholding human rights and protecting the most vulnerable members of society.

Additionally, the bill responds to recent changes in clinical guidelines adopted by Queensland Health, which now recognise the need for comprehensive care for babies born alive following termination procedures. These updated guidelines underscore the importance of providing appropriate medical care and attention to all newborns, in accordance with international human rights standards.

In conclusion, I urge the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee to recognise the importance of the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 and to recommend its support by the Queensland Parliament. By doing so, Queensland reaffirms its commitment to upholding human rights and ensures that every child, regardless of their circumstances, is afforded the dignity and care they deserve.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Deborah Norman

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