

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

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I write to record my support for the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024. I write also to express my deep concern regarding the recent Senate Committee report on the Human Rights (Children Born Alive) Protection Bill 2022. This report is heavily biased against needs for protection, which highlights the urgent need for the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 to deliver much needed protections for the babies who survive abortion. Late-term abortions, and babies born alive during these abortions, are not as rare as abortion advocates would have us think. According to ABC News, data from Queensland revealed that, 'In 2015, 27 babies of five month's gestation survived [abortions], only to later die after not receiving life-saving treatment.' Moreover, data from just two states, Victoria and Queensland, shows that more than 700 babies were born alive following an abortion between 2010 and 2020. The Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 seeks to ensure that EVERY child who is born still living after a botched abortion procedure is cared for and given basic life-sustaining or palliative care. The bill aligns with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Australia is a signatory, which states: 'every child has the inherent right to life' and states 'Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child'.

Furthermore, the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child, ALSO declares our nation's obligation to protect every child "without distinction or discrimination on account of ... birth or other status" from "all forms of neglect, [and] cruelty". These treaties include both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that "every child has the inherent right to life" and that all parties involved will ensure "to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child", as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which declares our nation's obligation to protect every child without distinction. What is the United Nations Declaration of the right of the child? Article 1 – A child means every human being below the age of eighteen. Article 2 – State parties must ensure all rights apply to children regardless of their age race, religion, gender, wealth or birthplace.

Article 3 – All signatories of the convention must work towards actions in the best interests of the child. These international obligations are not in any way ambiguous; and, unless one wishes to go so far as to claim that a child who has survived an abortion and is independently living outside its mother's womb is somehow not a child, attacks of this kind simply cannot stand, and actually contravene and contradict the definition of a child as stated in Article 1 cited above from the UNDRC.

I heartily agree with the following paragraph from an article published in the Spectator several months ago, titled "Children born alive bill: a moral test for our Parliament". It declared, "Our elected officials will soon vote on a question that everyone knows does not require a vote – the question of whether an innocent and helpless, though unwanted, baby must be saved, or whether it may be discarded in the name of 'wellbeing.' Perhaps they will vote in accordance with conscience and reason, or perhaps they will decide that 'sexual liberation' and 'wellbeing' are more important than life itself." This is why I call on you to disregard the illogical arguments presented in the Senate Committee report(s) and to instead give this bill your full support as we wait for it to be brought to a vote.