

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by: Wendy Kefford
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All Newborns Deserve 'Best-Practice' Medical Care

I am writing in support of **Robbie Katter's Termination of Pregnancy** (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024.

Unlike similar laws in South Australia and New South Wales, the Queensland Termination of Pregnancy Act is ominously silent on what happens when a child is born alive as a result of a termination of pregnancy procedure.

This Bill reflects recent changes in **clinical guidelines adopted by Queensland Health**, which now recognise the need for comprehensive care for babies born alive following termination procedures and brings Queensland in line with New South Wales and South Australian legislation and in accordance with international human rights standards.

- **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.

- **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.

Our law makers are often too far removed from the human impact of decisions they make. I earnestly encourage you to provide protection and care for these incredibly vulnerable little ones and support the mental health of carers who may have been instructed not to provide care while being at risk of litigation.