

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

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To the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee, I would like to remind the committee of their obligation to uphold the basic human rights of all babies born alive, including those that are born alive after attempted abortions. All babies showing signs of life have a right to medical care to support and also save that life. Please review the "Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024", to ensure all babies born alive have their basic human rights upheld. 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. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, emphasises the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health including the provision of medical care and social services needed for the well-being of individuals, and this includes newborns born as a result of termination procedures. Whether a baby is wanted by the parents or not is irrelevant, if the baby is born alive its rights are the same regardless of its parents' feelings. Please do your duty and protect the rights of all babies born alive.