

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 89
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Members of the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024, currently under your esteemed examination. As a member of the Queensland community, I strongly advocate for every individual's inherent right to life and well-being, as echoed in both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 was enacted, our state has lacked clear guidelines on the care of newborns who survive termination procedures. Unlike New South Wales and South Australia, Queensland's current legislation does not address the medical treatment of these vulnerable infants, who deserve the highest attainable standard of health care as stipulated by the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. The recent amendments proposed by Robbie Katter MP, which align with updated Queensland Health clinical guidelines, are a commendable step towards fulfilling our ethical and legal responsibilities. These guidelines reflect best practices in medical care and are also a testament to our commitment to human rights. Along with many in our community, I am prepared to support and provide care for these newborns. It is a moral imperative to ensure their right to life and health is respected from birth, regardless of the circumstances leading to their arrival. In conclusion, I urge the committee to consider the profound implications of this Bill and to advocate for its swift adoption. By doing so, we affirm our commitment to the rights and dignity of every newborn, providing them with the care and protection they deserve. Thank you for considering this vital issue. I look forward to your positive response and hope this legislation will be advanced. Sincerely, Zachary Dexter