

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 102
Submitted by: Veronica Pritchard
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment

Submitter Comments:

Submission to the Committee Inquiry on the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 To the Honourable Members of the Committee, I write to you not only as a former government employee and policy writer but as a mother, deeply concerned about the pressing need for immediate legislative action to ensure the protection and care of the most vulnerable among us—newborns born under circumstances of late-term termination. I am advocating strongly for the urgent passage of the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024. The discrepancy in care standards between Queensland and other states like New South Wales and South Australia is not only alarming but also unacceptable. The lack of a consistent legal framework in our state puts at risk the lives of newborns who, through no fault of their own, find themselves born under circumstances that should not diminish their rights to health and life. The laws in NSW and SA clearly stipulate that the duty of care owed to these newborns is identical to that owed to any other child. Queensland must urgently align with this precedent to eliminate inequality in newborn care. Every minute we delay in passing this bill, we risk the lives and violate the rights of newborns born from late-term abortions—rights that are staunchly protected under international agreements like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As the data presented by Robbie Katter painfully highlights, the incidence of live births following late-term abortions is not just a statistic; it represents real lives in need of immediate medical attention. Health practitioners are bound by their oath and ethical responsibilities to provide care to all life. However, without a clear legislative mandate, their ability to fulfill these duties is severely compromised. This bill is crucial for empowering healthcare providers to extend their duty of care unequivocally to all newborns, ensuring they have the legal backing to administer necessary medical interventions without hesitation or ambiguity. The swift passage of this bill will affirm Queensland's commitment to compassion, justice, and equality in care. It will send a resolute message to the community and the world at large about our values—particularly our dedication to protecting the rights and lives of all children, regardless of the circumstances of their birth. As a community, as lawmakers, and as individuals committed to ethical standards and human rights, we face an urgent call to action. The Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 must be passed without delay. It is not only a matter of legal necessity but of moral imperative to ensure that no child is left unprotected and that healthcare providers are supported comprehensively in their duties. Let us stand together to safeguard the lives of all newborns in Queensland and uphold our fundamental human rights commitments. Thank you for considering this pressing matter with the seriousness and promptness it deserves. Sincerely, Veronica Pritchard

From: [Veronica Pritchard](#)
To: [Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee](#)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Bill
Date: Thursday, 09 May 2024 01:47:00 PM

Dear Secretary of the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee,
I hope this email finds you well. Please find attached my submission for the Committee Inquiry on the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024. As a mother and former government policy writer, I have provided my detailed perspectives on the urgent need for this legislation, which I believe is critical to protecting the rights and lives of newborns born under circumstances of late-term termination. I am strongly advocating for the swift passage of this Bill to align Queensland's care standards with those of other states and to uphold our ethical obligations to both our community and our healthcare providers. Thank you for considering my views on this vital issue. I am hopeful for the Committee's support in passing this important Bill promptly.

Warm regards,

Veronica Pritchard



Veronica Pritchard

Thursday 9th May, 2024

**Submission to the Committee Inquiry on the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births)
Amendment Bill 2024**

To the Secretary, Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee,

I write to you not only as a former government employee and policy writer but as a mother, deeply concerned about the pressing need for immediate legislative action to ensure the **protection and care of the most vulnerable** among us—newborns born under circumstances of late-term termination. I am advocating strongly for the urgent passage of the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024.

The discrepancy in care standards between Queensland and other states like New South Wales and South Australia is not only alarming but also unacceptable. The lack of a consistent legal framework in our state puts at risk the lives of newborns who, through no fault of their own, find themselves born under circumstances that should not diminish their rights to health and life. The laws in NSW and SA clearly stipulate that the duty of care owed to these newborns is identical to that owed to any other child. Queensland must urgently align with this precedent to eliminate inequality in newborn care.

Every minute we delay in passing this bill, we risk the lives and violate the rights of newborns born from late-term abortions—rights that are staunchly protected under international agreements like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As the data presented by Robbie Katter painfully highlights, the incidence of live births following late-term abortions is not just a statistic; it represents real lives in need of immediate medical attention

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The swift passage of this bill will affirm Queensland's commitment to compassion, justice, and equality in care. It will send a resolute message to the community and the world at large about our values—particularly our dedication to protecting the rights and lives of all children, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.

As a community, as lawmakers, and as individuals committed to ethical standards and human rights, we face an urgent call to action. The Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 must be passed without delay. It is not only a matter of legal necessity but of moral imperative to ensure that no child is left unprotected and that healthcare providers are supported comprehensively in their duties.

Let us stand together to safeguard the lives of all newborns in Queensland and uphold our fundamental human rights commitments.

Sincerely,

Veronica Pritchard