

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

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Mrs Lina Martin



12 May 2024

SUBMISSION
Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill
Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee

Dear Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission concerning the above bill.

Please find my submission attached.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Lina Martin

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SUBMISSION

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

My question to the Committee is this, “Why would you not want to support this Bill?”

This bill is not about reproductive rights. It is not about a woman’s right to choose. It is not about abortion. It does not seek to take anything away from the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018.

This bill seeks not to discriminate but to end discrimination. This bill is about basic human rights - the human rights that should be afforded to all human babies born in Queensland. All children deserve equal rights regardless of how they entered this life.

The Queensland Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 allows for abortion up to the time of birth. Tragically, as a result of this, we are now seeing an increase in the number of babies born alive after an abortion. In 2018, there were 152 late term abortions. Three years later in 2021, that number has doubled to 304.¹ More late term abortions, means more babies potentially being born alive. This problem isn’t going to magically disappear.

The public briefing recently conducted by the Committee with Robbie Katter, MP and Dr Joanna Howe was an eye-opener. Questions from some of the committee members included how to define a person, after-birth abortion for disability, and whether medical care should be provided to a baby after birth in cases where the parents don’t give consent. Would we and should we be asking these same questions about babies born alive prematurely and who are wanted?

I strongly urge the Committee to put an end to the unjust discrimination that targeted 90 Queensland babies born alive in 2021 and 2022. Helpless babies who are left to die in kidney dishes and thrown out alive with medical waste.²

I commend and thank Robbie Katter, MP for Traeger for presenting this Bill in the Queensland Parliament. I ask that the Committee do what is right and seek to enshrine into law, legal protection for all babies born in Queensland, regardless of their circumstances.

1: Table 10.13 Perinatal Deaths, Queensland, 2021 Selected Conditions in Fetus/Neonate by type of Perinatal Death

https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/1235492/tables_2021.pdf

2: Speech by Robbie Katter, Member for Traeger, 20 March 2024

https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/speeches/spk2024/Robert_Katter-Traeger-20240320-557929162154.pdf