

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

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The Secretary
Health, Environment & Agriculture Committee
Queensland Parliament

11th May, 2024

Dear Secretary,

I write to you with the intention of providing an anonymous submission to support the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 introduced by Robbie Katter.

I believe wholeheartedly that all newborn babies regardless of whether they have been born alive after a failed abortion or not deserve to be treated with the utmost care and medical attention. In fact, providing such treatment to any baby born alive is consistent with best medical practice and the ethical guidelines of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

All babies have a right to life and appropriate healthcare just as any other human being is regardless of the circumstances of their birth. They deserve our protection and they deserve to be treated equally and fairly as is the right of all Australian citizens.

Currently, unlike New South Wales and South Australia, the Queensland Termination of Pregnancy Act does not stipulate what is to be done if a baby is born alive as a result of an abortion. Since Queensland Health no longer fails to identify the requirements for providing full care for babies born alive following an abortion procedure, it is difficult to understand why Queensland legislation does not support these recent and updated health guidelines.

What kind of a society are we that treats babies so cruelly and barbarically? Queensland needs to get its act together and establish the appropriate legal and ethical guidelines so that no more babies born alive are left to die as is the case with 90 babies in the last two years. The thought that this is occurring is untenable. The fact that women are even legally allowed to terminate a viable pregnancy right up until the time of birth is beyond my comprehension. It is totally heinous and a blight on our society as a whole. No mother has the right to murder her own child at any stage of existence. The child is a separate life and body to the mother, and, therefore, has his or her own right to life and protection. Why are we not supporting pregnant women more?

Queensland is failing women and their babies. Please pass this bill to protect the lives of innocent babies born alive following a failed abortion. If passed, Queensland would be in accordance with legislation in both South Australia and New South Wales, and also international human rights standards.

Yours sincerely,

Debra Quinn
