

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 565
Submitted by: Geraldine O'Brien
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From: Geraldine O'Brien [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 12 May 2024 12:42 PM
To: HEAC
Subject: Submission - Queensland Babies Born Alive Bill from Geraldine O'Brien

Committee Secretary
Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2006
AUSTRALIA
Sun May 12 2024
Public Submission by Geraldine O'Brien.

It is essential, in my opinion, that we continue to uphold the twin principles of 'do no harm' and 'do good'. These principles are two sides of the one coin that motivate our society to act (not just react) with justice and mabcd conviction.

Our State Government must show courageous leadership in upholding both these principles, especially for the most vulnerable. Surely a newborn baby has every right to expect to be protected as much as any other child, whether 'wanted' or not. To the best of my knowledge, we protect born children, whether 'wanted' or not. I hope our society never reaches a point where we base help for a child on whether the child is 'wanted' or not. And yet, this is what is happening right now, right here in our hospitals/clinics. Babies deemed not 'wanted' and are supposed to have died through abortion and have lived through this trauma, are now left to die. Is 'wanted' the new criteria for protection?

The Government must not use the social/subjective construct of 'wantedness' as the criteria for deciding NOT to provide the necessary protection and health care for an abortion survivor. This criteria would never be used to withhold necessary care to an infant who was a 'wanted' infant and not an abortion survivor. To allow 'wantedness' to be the hallmark of our care for the most vulnerable in our society would be a cultural shift backwards to wanton barbarism.

I urge our State Government to show the leadership and mabcd courage to protect babies fighting for life after surviving abortion. I strongly urge the Government to support the Legislation that protects these babies and provides them with the necessary health care and protection they need to survive and thrive.

My name is Geraldine O'Brien. I have lived in Townsville for over 40 years.

Sincerely, Geraldine O'Brien

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