

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

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From: Rod Motyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 12 May 2024 3:10 PM
To: HEAC
Subject: Queensland Babies Born Alive Bill Submission. Dr Roderick Alan Motyer.

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

I would like to personally appeal to the Parliament to pass this legislation, recognising that humans born as a result of an "abortion" who subsequently prove themselves capable of continuing to live after removal from the womb are regarded as vulnerable human beings, and citizens of this country, and therefore entitled to the same care as every other citizen.

My name is Rod Motyer, I am a cardiologist practicing in Townsville. I have been a practicing physician since 1980, and a cardiologist in Townsville since 1997.

Abortion is a procedure used by medical staff to remove a fetus from a womb where the mother's life may be threatened by its continued presence, or where the fetus stands little chance of meaningful independent survival as evidenced by natural history. Historically at the time of abortion, there was no expectation that the foetus would survive.

However, the use of abortion has now been extended to situations where the mother does not wish to be pregnant, even after the foetus is entirely capable of independent life. This has resulted in more than one situation where the "aborted" foetus survives the procedure independently. Until now, this has resulted in these live babies being left to die. The slippery strategy of declaring that the procedure is not complete until the foetus is dead should not exonerate us from a responsibility to take care of a child, separated from its mother during this procedure, that continues to show every sign of being capable of independent life.

To facilitate an "abortion" of a human being capable of independent life, which in other circumstances would be called a "delivery", and then to leave that child to die, is now a well recognised occurrence locally and internationally, and it is abysmal that this strategy is not recognised as a crime in this country. Should you do the same thing to the product of any other live birth, it would doubtless constitute a criminal offence.

This is a radically new and concerning circumstance which I hope would not have entered the minds of the politicians who wrote and approved these laws, for had they foreseen this situation and decided to do nothing about it, or worse, approved of the strategy currently being adopted, my respect for them as human beings would be substantially crippled.

My view is that any child born, whether delivered naturally, or by caesarean section, or "aborted", who continues to survive independently once separated from its mother, should be regarded as a citizen of this country in its own right, and receive the same support available to every citizen, which should be freely available to it under the protection of law. This is the fundamental responsibility of our government. I am very concerned at the lack of foresight of those who failed to provide for these children, who are "aborted" so late in the process of their development in the womb that they are quite capable of living high quality independent lives provided proper care is afforded them at the commencement of that life.

Although presently regarded by law as a by-product of the medical procedure designed to abort it, a survivor of an abortion procedure should receive the same rights as any other human being who is a citizen of Australia.

I am astonished that this situation was not foreseen and provided for. The absence of laws providing for this situation is a reflection of the competence of our law-makers. And if it is true that our lawmakers are satisfied that leaving these independently surviving children to die is an acceptable option, then my concern is that this is setting a precedent for the standard of care of others in our society who are alive but not "useful", such as

disabled persons, the aged and infirm, and the mentally challenged, who might be treated in the same way as the "by-products of an abortion".

Sincerely, Rod Motyer

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