

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

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

If this Bill is not passed and these babies' lives are not protected, then this government is guilty of double standards because it allows these babies lives to be arbitrarily terminated while it charges others for causing the death of babies in care or abused by parents. A glaring double standard in our law is that unborn babies rights are recognised as having rights when a pregnant woman is aborted, and so in this case a person is charged with 2 deaths not just the death of the mother.

Also the ramifications of failing to pass this Bill into law is that this government will continue to fail to protect medical professionals and associated workers from vicarious trauma and may face law claims accordingly. Also failure to pass this Bill will continue to mean accidental adopting parents are denied this opportunity to give these babies a home, and our country will continue to suffer from economic undergrowth from under population. To consider all the possibilities, talents and gifts that if allowed to live, these individuals could bring to our society, is never considered and reflected upon, to the sad detriment of our society and of human rights generally. The overwhelming evidence is the tsunami of domestic and family violence and the reported abuse of children which will continue while this government fails to set standards to value human life and human rights. It will fail to influence society to have less self interest and greater community values, while this government continues to devalue the human rights for all to live a life of dignity and free of harm. So the failure to pass this Bill into law will affect us all.

With all the evidence of the devaluing of the care and concern for the rights of citizens in many areas of society, I consider it is time and essential for Governments to lead and set the standards that our society desperately needs to live by, to avoid the double standards of sanctioning the aborting of babies but the denouncing of violence and violations of rights to a dignified life. This government has to also provide more support to women and supporters who feel they have no other choice but for the woman to abort her baby. The rights of children are enshrined by UN conventions, Federal and State laws, so at the very least. Aborted babies born alive must be afforded the same rights as any other babies and given essential life giving medical attention. It is the fundamental role of a government to protect us including our most vulnerable amongst us. If governments do not adhere to this then who can the vulnerable and helpless look to for protection? Governments must therefore act to protect these babies and ensure that our laws reflect this and uphold the value of all human life. Babies cannot vote so it is my responsibility and of those seeking to protect these babies, to advocate for them.

I therefore urge this government to accept this Bill for the sake of having a good government that values its fundamental role and duties to all, and so the good of our society. Thank you for considering our submissions. Hello, my name is Bernice Anning and I am a solicitor from Brisbane. I am against all abortions, the aborting of human life. The aborting of the most helpless of human beings who have survived abortion, is an even greater injustice and absolute anathema to me. Also once born alive, regardless of how this baby exited the womb, they are no longer a foetus, but a live baby and a baby born alive as a result of an abortion should be accorded all the rights of any other baby without qualification. To start making any distinctions has echoes of the Nazis deciding who gets to live and who gets to die.

Therefore, it is essential then to provide all essential healthcare to preserve a baby's life no matter what the circumstances of their surviving outside the womb. There should be no basis for distinguishing who should live. If this Bill is not passed into law, and so health care continues to be denied, causing untold deaths of live

babies, then why should anyone be charged with abcding or causing the death of a baby in any situation? Why should it be lawful in this instance and not in another? What mixed messages is government sending out to a society already riven with serious problems disrespecting human life with the evidence of domestic and other forms of violence and abuse? Also we cannot expect doctors and nurses to participate in the abcding of aborted babies born alive by withholding of medical care and attention. It is against their ethos and professional values, and governments cannot legislate to desensitise them with making these abcdings lawful, including for those consenting to participate in these abortions and with live births involved. We do not know how much vicarious trauma these medical professionals will suffer as a result of this work. Possible personal injury claims may follow in the long run, when medical staff suffer the affects of this work and society realises that governments have failed to protect the most vulnerable individuals from such cruel treatment, the termination of a babys life, and to protect its health professionals from this reasonably likely trauma.

Sincerely, Bernice Anning

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