

From: Hannah Berardi [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 25 November 2018 8:46 PM
To: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Subject: Submission regarding to the proposed Queensland Human Rights Bill 2018

[REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

25 November 2018

Dear Committee Secretary,

I wish to make a submission with regards to the proposed Queensland Human Rights Bill 2018.

I have recently been witness to the legalisation of the Late-Term Abortion Laws, which were passed by the same government that now proposes a Human Rights Bill. It seems hypocritical that the same party would introduce both of these Bills, let alone within days of each other.

I bring your attention to Section 16: Right to Life, Section 17: Protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and Section 26: Protection of families and children.

Section 16 states that "every person has the right to life, and not to be arbitrarily deprived of life". Section 17 continues to state that "a person must not be— (a) subjected to torture; or (b) treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way".

Let's pause here and reflect back upon the recent legislation passed regarding late-term abortion. I fail to see how this stance is consistent, considering the termination of a person (child) can be conducted due to gender, socio-economic reasons, and many other 'arbitrary' factors. The Late-Term Abortion Bill may have been instigated for other intentions, however, the allowances for application appear to be a direct infringement of the Human Rights of the terminated human in question. Additionally, no matter how I look at any termination procedure, I can't see how they would fit any other description other than being treated in a cruel or inhumane way. The later the termination, the more brutal the procedure, however, even early terminations are incredibly horrific for the baby.

Regarding Section 26 (Protection of Families and Children), I find it to be a complete contradiction considering the recent legislation passed as discussed earlier. Subsection 1 notes that "families are the fundamental group unit of society and are entitled to be protected by society and the State", continuing with Subsection 2 stating "every child has the right, without discrimination, to the protection that is needed by the child, and is in the child's best interests, because of being a child". The Late-Term Abortion Bill literally enables discrimination to the fullest extent of children due to being able to terminate them for their disability and/or gender. How can this be deemed consistent with maintaining and protecting the Human Rights of these children?

I conclude that I support elements of this Bill, however, I believe that terminology & definitions should be explicit and implicit that a 'person' refers to persons unborn as well as born. I could find no specific definition of 'person' or 'child' outlined in the Bill. Therefore I look to Section 26, Subsection 3 where it states that "every person born in Queensland", insinuating that a person is only someone who has been born. Just because a child passes through the birth canal doesn't magically make them a person. I believe unborn children should be recognised and protected by the State and the Laws that govern it. I am currently pregnant at full-term with my third child, and could give birth any day now. However, with this proposed legislation, my child has no Human Rights until after it is separated from my body on the day of its birth. From a scientific perspective, I understand that the person living inside my womb is a human, and therefore should be covered under the protection of the Human Rights Bill 2018.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

Sincerely,

HBerardi

Hannah Berardi



Redacted contact information consisting of several lines of blacked-out text.

Ms.