




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

MOTION

Youth Justice Report Select Committee, Production of Amended Report

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.34 pm): I want it on the record that the three LNP members on this committee would not, could not, put their names to a report that recommended media gagging provisions. This report recommended that the media be regulated and gagged in relation to youth crime and reporting on youth crime. The member for Cooper put up a recommendation saying that the Queensland state government look into the impact of media and social media reporting of crime and any impacts it has on encouraging offenders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Gympie, you are also warned. I will continue to pause the clock and your member will lose time from her speech. I would ask you to remain silent during the rest of the contribution.

Mrs GERBER: In the committee comments by the Labor members they acknowledge that traditional news media and social media play a role in the community's understanding and need increasing regulation of the media in relation to youth crime.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned.

Mrs GERBER: In relation to youth crime, the LNP would not, could not, put their names to a report that was going to gag the media. It is an absolute disgrace to politicise this now and say that it was not a bipartisan committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are under a warning. You can leave the chamber for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 7.36 pm.

Mrs GERBER: It is an absolute disgrace for this Labor state government to now try to say that the LNP did not participate fully in this process. Further, in relation to the recommendations we put up, we recommended that the Queensland government remove detention as a last resort as an overriding principle in the Youth Justice Act. That was voted down by the Labor members. We recommended that the Queensland government immediately reverse the onus in section 282A of the Youth Justice Act to make the victim register an opt-out system rather than an opt-in system to take the burden off victims. Again it was blocked by Labor. We recommended that the Queensland government urgently reopen the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media in line with the opposition amendments already tabled in this House. Again that was blocked by Labor. We also moved amendments in relation to victims of crime. Victims of crime appeared at the Brisbane hearing and they were denied an open-floor hearing. We moved a motion that they be allowed time to have an open-floor session and

that they be heard. The Labor members blocked the suggestion that victims of crime be heard. They now come into this House and claim that they were completely bipartisan and that they were acting in good faith. The member for Thuringowa expresses how disappointed he is in this process. It is an absolute disgrace that they are now coming into this chamber and pulling this political stunt.

Now they are going to change the voting of the committee so that it is no longer bipartisan. Half of the report was considered and then it was pushed through by the Labor members without the appropriate time for consideration. We requested that time be allowed for the committee members to fully consider this report because that is what Queenslanders deserve and it was denied by the Labor members. The fact that this committee is now being disbanded is a political stunt by Labor because they want to control the narrative.

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Redlands, you are warned.

Mrs GERBER: They want to control the recommendations, they want to control the narrative and, guess what? They want to control the media, too! Our LNP members would not, could not, put our name to any provisions that gag the media. Instead of taking real action, instead of actually supporting suggestions that recommended changes to laws to enable real action—the recommendations that the LNP members put through—the Labor members amended them to ask for another review. The review is what the committee was meant to do in the first place. If they want to do another review, why are they disbanding this bipartisan committee? They are disbanding it because it does not suit their political narrative and anything they introduce after this is a complete farce.

(Time expired)