




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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MOTION

Termination of Pregnancy

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.01 pm): I am almost lost for words at reading this today. I appreciate that there is a dichotomy of views in the House. I am not sure if there is a precedent for preventing debate on an issue in this House. I understand there was some repugnant language during the election campaign, much of which I was at the end of. It is used, but that is no excuse for removing the right of anyone to put something into parliament.

As we all know, the KAP had the 'babies born alive' bill. I remember being interviewed in the election campaign and being asked, 'Why would you bring this up here?' to which I said, 'I didn't. You asked me about it.' I have not brought this up once. I did not put out one media release and I did not ask for one interview on it. If I get asked about it, I will tell you what we think about it because I am happy to tell you what we think.

I was asked, 'Why would you bring it up?' The answer is: why not? Isn't an election about knowing where people stand? We thrive on differentiating ourselves from Labor, the LNP or the Greens. That is the whole point of politics—to establish parameters of where we differentiate our positions. That is the whole point of this place. We could cut and paste 'abortion' with 'tree clearing' or any other issue we wanted to bring in. A lot of people find some of these issues repulsive. We want to put the debate back in.

I would love to take interjections if there are any. I would love to know what the counterarguments are here because I am absolutely gobsmacked. We cannot ignore that this is a big issue. There are kids dying in bins—and that was from the coroner's report. That is not speculation; that is not disputed. There are kids whose hearts were still pumping—and some would question whether they were alive or not—but they are being thrown in a waste bin. That is a pretty big issue. Whether we think it is right or wrong or will end on pro life, it does not really matter. We cannot ignore that it is there and it is happening right now. It should be addressed, whether it is agreed with or not. The debate cannot be truncated. We can end up on the wrong or the right side of it, but the ability to debate it cannot be removed.

I come back to that commentary from one of the media outlets that asked me why I would bring this up now. Firstly, we did not bring it up. Secondly, why not? That is exactly the point of this House, the media and the election campaign. It is to say where we stand, what our values are and what we believe in. What do the pro-life people in Queensland do now? Do they just park it up? There does not seem to be a termination date on this so does it mean that we cannot mention this forever? I cannot get my head around this. Clearly, it is targeted. We were going to be the only party to bring something like this in here. We try to do it with respect, appreciating that it is a tricky subject for people. We should have the right to bring something in here, and certainly those babies need representation.