

The Senate Committee inquiring into the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

Dear Honourable Committee members,

I share Senator Madigans concerns in regard to the public funding of sex-selection abortions. Indeed the subject of abortion is a very problematic area for legislators, charged as it is with extreme views and emotions across a divided public.

However, I believe the ethical and moral issues are nonetheless quite clear - every child has a right to life. In my personal view, abortion should not be practiced at all, except at the mothers option, and only in such circumstances where the mother's life itself would be otherwise at risk. To kill an unborn infant for the sake of convenience or mere personal preference in regard to the sex of a child, is quite utterly abhorrent and morally amounts to infanticide.

In regard to the current question, however, I would make to the committee the following representations for their consideration:

First, that aborting an unborn child solely on the basis of gender is not a medical procedure and should therefore not be afforded Medicare benefits. Medicare funding should be strictly limited to health procedures; taxpayers should not be funding decisions based purely on cultural or personal preference.

And further, it is the duty of legislators to ensure every child, regardless of gender, is afforded the basic human right of life. Morally, it is incumbent upon lawmakers to protect the unborn given their extremely vulnerable state, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

By providing Medicare funding of sex-selection abortions, the Government of Australia is contributing to the increase of this abhorrent act. The government should rather be working to see a reduction in abortion.

I hope the committee will give careful consideration to these points, and that the outcome of their inquiry will reflect a high moral standard and defend the defenceless.

Sincerely,