

23/4/2013

To the Committee,

I write in support of the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013, introduced by Senator John Madigan.

Sex-selective abortion is a morally reprehensible practice and should not be funded through Medicare. I believe that since most Australians are opposed to sex-selective abortions, many would support any attempt to prevent sex-selective abortions from being funded by Medicare.

Unless this Amendment is passed, unborn girls in particular will continue to be in danger of being aborted for being girls. In Australia, sex-selective abortion (or 'gendercide') is practiced by some ethnic groups that prefer sons over daughters. This should not be funded by Medicare.

Other families will use Medicare-funded sex-selective abortions in order to 'balance' their families with the desired number of sons and daughters. In these situations, unborn boys are at equal risk of being aborted for being male as unborn girls are for being female.

The United Nations notes that around 200 million girls are 'missing' – they have been killed for being girls. An estimated 160 million girls have disappeared in Asia, mainly due to sex-selective abortion. If sex-selective abortion continues to be funded by Medicare, sex-selective abortions in Australia will rise, contributing to this international atrocity. The practice is also a concern in other Western countries such as the USA, Canada and the UK.

I also believe that sex-selective abortions, even if not Medicare-funded, should be banned. I would strongly support any Bill proposing a ban on the barbaric practice of sex-selective abortion.

Yours sincerely,