

"I support the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013"

I do not wish any of my tax dollars (via Medicare) to be used for gender selection abortions; with the prevalence being, by some ethnic groups in Australia, to terminate female girls, & other reasons such as 'family-balancing' gender selection abortions.

We should be following the campaigns by United Nations agencies to end discrimination that 'gender-selection abortions' promote, and also listen to medical associations that have concerns about this 'gender-selection abortion' practice and its negative long-term effect on our society.

I have noticed a disintegration of morals in our society over my lifetime (50 years), most of all disrespect for the elderly. This seems to me a great shame as they have lived through all life's problems and could advise us quite proficiently through any 'trials and tribulations' that society comes up against these days. They're the same problems that they had, just called a different name (& discussed these days via social media, instead of over the back-fence). I believe most of our wonderful senior citizens (I work with many aged people) would say firstly 'prevention is better than cure' – exercise restraint; have self-control; toughen up and say no to yourself; but, as the saying goes, accidents do happen (we are weak humans, after-all). {More programs for young people to learn these skills could help reduce many unwanted pregnancies in the first place; this may be 'a pie-in-the-sky' idea but it's a starting point}.

Next, I suggest that what seems like a 'simple' solution will in the long-term be an event that can lead to great, uneasy feelings of regret (maybe even ruin people's lives). Suicide would be a case in point. What someone thinks 'is the only answer' to their difficult life's situation at the time, leaves utter devastation for those loved ones left-behind. Some women may find themselves in a situation that they feel an abortion (or a 'gender-selected abortion' for purposes of this submission) is the only answer but do not realise that years later they may come to regret that decision & can't move past it.

Its human nature to feel regret for ending the prospect of a human foetus growing into a productive person in society, not something *society* makes people feel guilty about. Human beings instinctively know that killing another human being is a 'big deal' because we are all born with the insatiable 'will to live' (just look at the fight tiny, tiny little premature babies put up, or people with cancer 'fighting' on against all odds). So unless someone has lost the will to live (or in self-defence circumstances) taking a person's life is immensely unfair to that person. However, just like people that commit suicide, those that make the decision to not proceed with a pregnancy need our sympathy, not our judgement. Possibly they made a

decision in a state of fear or confusion, without all the information & repercussions pointed out to them. (Sometimes, though, it is hard to not judge because as I said before we are weak humans, after-all).

I support this amendment to enable me to have a clear conscience & not feel regret that I didn't in some way try to remind my fellow Aussies that all life is precious. I don't enjoy being outspoken and sounding like I have all the answers. It's just that being around 'older & wiser' people has lead me to believe (& know) that all things happen for a reason (even unplanned pregnancies) & if we just wait long enough without rushing in to fix 'problems' we'll realise that they weren't even problems to begin with.

Thankyou for the opportunity to have a voice and speak for those that can't; to speak-out against the discriminatory practise of gender-selection abortions. To prevent a human being (due to their gender) the chance to become the wonderful, amazing, talented, smart, helpful, kind, etc person they have the opportunity to be (because they're born in the Lucky Country, Australia) is such a waste of a 'natural resource'. I feel the world is losing its respect for human life (like the bombings that have just occurred in Boston) – hopefully Australia can be world leaders in getting it back by not promoting abortion. And give women (& men) the whole story about *all* the consequences of their decision – yes the 'problem' is gone for now but that doesn't mean it's gone for good; long term memory sticks around for a long, long time (& it's not as easy to get rid off as an unwanted pregnancy).

Yours Sincerely

Cathy Seymour

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