
Dear Senators,

I pray that you are all well.

I am writing to you in regard to the Senate Inquiry into the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

In our society it has become tolerated, if not outright accepted or encouraged, for abortions to take place for children who have incurable chronic diseases or deformities. While I personally find the principle behind this abhorrent (ie, that the weak, imperfect or unwanted should be killed off), surely gender-selective abortions are even more so. This effectively makes gender equivalent to a genetic disease or deformity!

I also draw attention to the fact that around the world, traditionally it is the girls who have been disproportionately targeted wherever gender-selective abortion is practiced or tolerated. India is a prime example (http://cgi.unc.edu/uploads/media_items/the-practice-of-sex-selective-abortion-in-india-may-you-be-the-mother-of-a-hundred-sons.original.pdf) where there is a long history of female infanticide and a general preference for sons. China, Middle-Eastern and even Eastern European countries are likewise suspected of having similar issues. To allow this process to continue in this country would be a major setback to women's rights.

I trust that accordingly the Senate committee will do the right thing and ensure that this abhorrent practice is legislated against.

Blessings,

-Fr Jeremy Krieg
Priest
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia