

---

To whom it may concern,

I have recently been informed that sex selection abortions currently take place in Australia for those couples who have a cultural preference for boys or for "family balancing" by parents who want a child of a particular sex, and that this is currently under Medicare. I am strongly against abortion and to hear that people are aborting their unborn children because they are not the gender the parents wanted absolutely sickens me. I do not consider this a medical procedure. A medical procedure is defined as a course of action intended to achieve a result in the care of persons with health problems. Having a boy instead of a girl is NOT a health problem. Therefore I ask that this "procedure" should 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. It is the duty of legislators to ensure every child, regardless of gender, is afforded the basic human right of life. The law should protect the unborn given their vulnerable state, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. By providing Medicare funding of sex-selection abortions, is contributing to the increase of this abhorrent act; the government should work to see a reduction in abortion.

Thank you,

Stephanie Kasapidis