

To the Senate Committee,

I wish to make a submission to support the move to support the Health Insurance Amendment Bill to remove Medicare funding for sex-selections abortions.

In Australia, we have laws to protect and preserve unborn life, particularly should the unborn life be harmed. For example, there are punitive laws when an unborn babies life is terminated via manslaughter. It concerns me that thousands of babies every week have their lives terminated due to the decision of their mothers. These babies are completely vulnerable and should be protected in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I understand that Medicare is supposed to only be paid for abortions when they are medically required. I also know that very often this is certainly not the case, particularly with a large percentage of mothers choosing to abort their child for emotional reasons, yet still being able to claim Medicare. As compassionate as I am when I consider that having a child can be difficult for many parents, socially, financially and emotionally, I also know there are thousands of infertile couples that would be more than willing to assist, love and care for these children, were they to be born. In reality, no child is unwanted, so the Australian government should not be paying for children to be disposed of because the mother does not want the unborn human being.

I find the trend to abort based on the gender of an unborn child particularly abhorrent.

It is a completely unnecessary termination. Were the families to continue the pregnancy and have the baby of the lesser desired gender, for the most part, I would predict, the parent would nevertheless love that child unconditionally. The child deserves that chance rather than losing the right to live according to a parental whim. If parents really cannot resolve to add a specific gender to their family, once again, adoption is always an option. As someone who myself struggled with infertility, I know that so many couples would give anything for a baby, regardless of gender.

I hope some of these arguments will be considered as you deliberate on this Amendment.

Yours Truly,

Caitlin Taylor