Dear Sir/Madame,

25th March 2013

RE: Submission for Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013

I support Senator John Madigan's Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain types of Abortion) Bill 2013 as it discriminates against a unborn child based on the child's gender .

Medicare funding should be removed when " the termination is carried out solely because of the gender of the foetus" section 17A (1) (b)

Using gender as the basis for deciding to abort an unborn girl or boy is discriminatory and unacceptable. Such practice also constitute a form of gendercide which, if left uncheck, can contribute to disparities between the birth rates of male and female children. This has serious social consequences and can contribute to an increase in violence to women, child abduction, child abandonment and sex trafficking.

In fact, my China-born grandmother was abandoned next to a rubbish tip as a newborn. She never knew her birth date. Such practice of valuing boys over girls must not be encouraged through Medicare funding of sex-selective abortions.

Some countries have taken legislative steps to reduce the incidence of sex-selective abortion. At the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, 180 states agreed to eliminate "all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference". (Preventing gender-biased sex selection: UNFPA. Retrieved 1 November 2011.)

In Australia, we need legislation such as the Health Insurance Amendment Bill 2013 in order to discourage couples from killing their unborn child based on gender. Removal of Medicare funding can act as a financial deterrent for parents-to-be for killing their unborn child.

Legislation should also be in place for the mandatory keeping of abortion statistics by medical practitioners. The reason(s) for requesting killing of unborn children should be recorded as this provides valuable data for policy formation and the provision of women health care services.

Yours sincerely,

Clara Curtis