

SUBMISSION
**RE: Health Insurance Amendment
(Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013**

Wednesday 24th April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

I support Senator Madigan's Health Insurance Amendment (*Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion*) Bill 2013 as it recognises the need to eliminate discrimination due to gender. This Bill is in keeping with Australia's and the United Nations' stance on eliminating discrimination due to gender. Sex selection abortion is not only discriminatory but also unethical and not a form of healthcare. I believe this Bill is long awaited and sets the right example for our nation.

Discrimination against an unborn child because he or she is considered to be the 'wrong' gender or the 'unwanted' gender is wholly unacceptable and not in keeping with the values of our society. Both male and female are important and equally valued within our society. No gender should be treated with such superiority so that the other sex suffers and suffers the abhorrent practice of being aborted within the womb.

Medicare funding should certainly be removed when '*the termination is carried out solely because of the gender of the foetus*' [section 17a (1) b]. Medicare funds should not be misappropriated and spent on the abortion of unborn children whose only 'offence' is to be considered the unwanted gender. The abortion of unborn babies because they are unwanted is not a form of healthcare and tax payer funds should never be used for such a discriminatory and unethical practice. The removal of Medicare funding for gender selection abortions sends a clear message to the Australian community that no person should be discriminated against due to their gender.

There is no logic or consistency in ensuring no parent can select the gender of their child through Assisted Reproductive Technology (unless a specific gender has significant risk of genetic disorder) but to then have no safeguards or disincentives in place so that parents cannot have their unborn child terminated because that child is the unwanted gender.

Regardless of whether gender selection abortions are a fairly common or increasing occurrence, or only reported a handful of times per year, there should be no doubt that this type of practice is totally unacceptable and our federal government will not provide any incentive for parents to do so.

I would also support the widening of this Bill to further eliminate other forms of discrimination toward unborn children such as those at risk of abortion because of disability or imperfection.

Our government must recognise, protect and uphold the rights of every unborn child. In a culture that sees children more and more as choices, and something to reject if he or she is imperfect, this Bill is an opportunity for our nation to reconfirm its Australian values which views every human life as important. No unborn child should be dehumanised, devalued or discriminated against, and in this case, due to their gender. We have an obligation to ensure unborn children are protected and their best interests are sought, therefore I believe this Bill is a long awaited step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will support this Bill.

Yours sincerely,