

To The Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee,
PO Box 6100,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT, 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

I strongly support DLP Senator John Madigan who has introduced a bill into the federal parliament seeking to disallow Medicare funding for sex-selection abortions. I provide evidence based on research studies to validate this support:

A study lead by Dr Rebecca Kippen from the School of Population Health at Melbourne University of 2,500 people surveyed 2010, showed that 80% of respondents disapproved of sex-selection abortion - see <http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/n-436>. In Australia there is evidence from doctors that they are occurring and that is reason enough to ban Medicare funding when sex-selection is the reason for the abortion. There is also evidence of this happening in Victoria for the purpose of "family-balancing." (see <http://www.politicsdaily.com/2011/01/08/couple-aborts-twin-boys-because-they-want-a-girl-using-ivf/>). This happens widely in India and China (mainly the females are aborted (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ef95UVGq8Y&feature=endscreen&NR=1> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISme5-9orRQ>) but also and occurs in Europe and America (see <http://www.europe.eu/article/alarms-rise-abortion-female-fetuses-europe> and <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/284988/sex-selective-abortions-come-home-steven-w-mosher>)

This rising trend of prenatal gender selection in Europe has prompted The Council of Europe in a November, 2011 resolution to voice its concern over the rising trend of prenatal gender selection. It has demanded statistics from member nations on whether more boys than girls are born to mothers of certain nationalities – see <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/9794577/The-abortion-of-unwanted-girls-taking-place-in-the-UK.html>. The UN condemned sex-selection abortion in a 2011 Report of the OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO as "gender discrimination against girls and women and a violation of their human rights." – see http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241501460_eng.pdf. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates up to 200 million females are demographically missing worldwide – see <http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/factsfigures.shtml>. The UNFPA has document evidence in Europe of gender imbalances in certain nations (eg in Albania 112 boys are born for every 100 girls, while in Kosovo and Montenegro the figures are 110 and 109 boys for every 100 girls respectively – see <http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2012/Sex%20Imbalances%20at%20Birth.%20PDF%20UNFPA%20APRO%20publication%202012.pdf>)

In Australia, research carried out for the Southern Cross Bioethics Institute by the Adelaide Sexton Marketing Group showed that of the respondents who were "strongly pro-abortion" 82% believed sex-selection abortion should not be legal and 85% of that group believed sex-selection abortion is morally unacceptable. These research findings give an indication that sex-selection abortions are unacceptable to most Australians. If sex-selection abortions are not legally or morally acceptable to most Australians then Medicare funding of them would also be likely to be unacceptable to the majority (See Editors John Fleming PhD and Nicholas Tonti-Filippini PhD, St Pauls Publications, 2007 -<http://www.stpauls.com.au>).

Therefore I strongly support DLP Senator John Madigan who has introduced a bill into the federal parliament seeking to disallow Medicare funding for sex-selection abortions.

I thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards

Dr Marie Tarabay (DEd The University of Melbourne)