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

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees

Submission by:

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Introduction

I (Trevlyn) am a husband, father of four beautiful children, work full time in Hobart as a manager in a prominent national business and founded Reformed Resources (a ministry of Anselm Study House). I became an Australian citizen in 2001 and have lived in this great land since 1999. I (Susannah) am a wife, mother of four, home educator and registered nurse. I am an Australian citizen and completed my Bachelor of Nursing at Avondale College.

We write this submission in support of Senator John Madigan's Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013, presented to the Senate on 19 March 2013. It is urgent that this Bill be passed through the Senate.

Australian taxpayers should not be funding abortions; they especially should not be funding abortions on the basis of gender selection. Unborn girls (in particular) need protection; Senator Madigan's Bill is a step towards protecting the human rights of little girls in utero.

This Bill is a fundamental step towards eliminating the deadliness of the three most ominous words in the world; "it's a girl."¹ Sex-selective abortions are a problem around the world;² England³ and Australia are not immune to this practise.⁴ The Senator's Bill provides protection to the next generation of women (sisters, aunts, mothers, grandmothers) from termination simply due to their femininity.

¹ See the Documentary movie *It's a Girl!*: www.itsagirlmovie.com.

² Senator John Madigan introduced the Federal Bill: Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare funding for certain types of abortion) Bill 2013 to protect the rights of unborn girls (in particular). He had this to say: "To suggest that this situation is confined to Asian or South East Asian countries is either naive or deliberately ignores the fact that this practice occurs in Australia and not only within migrant communities. There are documented cases of sex selection abortion in Australia not only for a preferred male child but for 'family-balancing'." Quoted from here: http://www.johnmadigan.com.au/bill-health-insurance-amendment-medicare-funding-for-certain-types-of-abortion-bill-2013/?doing_wp_cron=1365118232.2571470737457275390625.

³ You can watch a doctor who was secretly filmed offering gender selective abortion in the UK here: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/9099711/Abortion-investigation-doctor-secretly-filmed-offering-to-terminate-foetus-because-of-its-gender.html>.

⁴ See here for an example of an Australian couple who aborted twin boys to try and have a girl: <http://www.politicsdaily.com/2011/01/08/couple-aborts-twin-boys-because-they-want-a-girl-using-ivf/>.

113 million to 200 million women missing in the world today

The United Nations estimates that, up to, a staggering 200 million women are missing in the world today due to infanticide.⁵ According to DCAF: "...put in the most horrible terms: violence against women causes every 2 to 4 years a mountain of corpses equal to the Jewish Holocaust."⁶ UNICEF argued that gender selective abortion creates the mindset that women are a "disposable gender," which has caused an increase in violence, sex trafficking and child abduction.⁷ This is shocking. Australia must do something to turn the tide. We ought to seek to be leaders in the protection of the weak and vulnerable in our society. Senator Madigan's Bill provides a framework to do exactly that. I strongly urge you to vote in favour of protecting our girls from being terminated simply because they are girls.

Gender selective abortion is gender discrimination against girls

In 1994 the United Nations condemned gender selective abortion and sort the elimination of "...all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which result in harmful and unethical practices regarding female infanticide and prenatal sex selection."⁸ The World Health Organization (and OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF and the UN) also strongly condemned gender selective abortion: "sex selection in favour of boys is a symptom of pervasive social, cultural, political and economic injustices against women, and a manifest violation of women's human rights."⁹

*Gender selective abortion is a war against women. In fact it is a slaughter of (future) women and it must be noted that the number victims surpasses the tragic, bloody Communist/Socialist (20th) century.*¹⁰

Australians reject gender selection abortion

The latest Galaxy Poll, on this issue (at time of writing), conducted in Tasmania on Tuesday 9 February 2013 clearly revealed that 92% of people are opposed to gender selective abortion.¹¹ Research has shown that Australians are overwhelmingly opposed to gender selective abortion.¹² It must also be noted that gender selective abortion is not limited to far away China, India or elsewhere; it is alive and present in Australia.¹³

⁵ Figures were found on the United Nations website on 24/04/2013 and can be viewed here: <http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/factsfigures.shtml>

⁶ DCAF, Vlachoud, M, Biason, L, Women in an Insecure World, Violence against Women, Facts, Figures and Analysis, p.2: http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/women_insecure_world.pdf.

⁷ Ibid, http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/women_insecure_world.pdf.

⁸ World Health Organization, Preventing gender-biased sex selection, An interagency statement, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and Who, p. 3: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44577/1/9789241501460_eng.pdf.

⁹ Ibid, http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44577/1/9789241501460_eng.pdf, p.4.

¹⁰ The Black Book of Communism estimates that 100 million people were murdered under socialist/communist regimes in the 20th century. See: Courtois, S, Werth, N, Panné, J-L, Paczkowski, A, Bartosek, K, Margolin, J-L, 1999, The Black Book of Communism – Crimes, Terror, Repression, Harvard University Press, Massachusetts, p. 4. The UN estimates 113-200 million women are missing due to infanticide. See here: <http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/factsfigures.shtml>.

¹¹ The 9 February 2013 Galaxy Poll is referred to in The Examiner: <http://www.examiner.com.au/story/1368072/we-dont-want-more-abortions/>

¹² Information gathered from The University of Melbourne, The Melbourne Newsroom, Boy or Girl? Australians think we shouldn't, 22 December 2010: <http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/n-436>.

Gender selective abortion is even offensive to the progressive socialist World Health Organization; praise God Almighty for this, especially since this position is inconsistent with the progressive movement.

Australian law was founded on Biblical Law

Australia is one of the most peaceful nations in the world and we enjoy a standard of living that most other countries envy. We must ask why. What is the reason for our peace and prosperity? As you know, our nation is part of the British Commonwealth; our legal and cultural heritage is tied closely to that of Britain/England. The history of our (common) law is directly linked with English Common Law, which dates back to King Alfred the Great in the 9th century. Alfred rallied England and upon successfully defending her from the ravages of the invading Vikings/Danes he established the English Law Code. Alfred's Book of Laws or Dooms codified what became England's Common Law. This Law blended Biblical Mosaic Law with the Christian principles of Celto-Brythonic Law. English law was established upon the Law of God. It recognised there is a Law above the law, which is revealed by God in His Scriptures. This was reconfirmed by Magna Carta in A.D. 1215.¹⁴

England's Common Law was framed in terms of Biblical Law. The (Common) Law of our land is based upon English Common Law and was thus founded upon Biblical Law. All nations that have used Biblical Law as the basis of their law have created societies wherein the weakest are protected and the people enjoy peace, prosperity and freedom (i.e. the entire western/Christian world). The laws of our land (federal, states and territories) were founded upon the Law of God and it is only the Law of God that provides a legal framework that produces these positive societal outcomes. It is no coincidence that those lands who adopted God's Law have produced nations that are the envy of the world. This cannot be said of those lands that are governed by other religious codes, including those lands which were ruled by the religion of atheistic secular humanism. According to The Black Book of Communism, the political outworking of the religion of atheistic secular humanism (aka the progressive movement) resulted in at least 100 million murders in the 20th century alone.¹⁵

The Australian Constitution sought the blessing of Almighty God

"WHEREAS the people of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God, have agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and under the Constitution hereby established..."¹⁶

Our Constitution is the antithesis to the political outworking of atheistic secular humanism – Socialism/Communism (in all its forms, currently manifested in Emily's List); it was founded on the Christian faith and seeks the God of the Bible's blessing upon our nation, states and territories.

¹³ For example The Herald Sun ran an article on 8 January 2011 entitled Parents want right to choose their child's gender: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/parents-want-right-to-choose-their-childs-gender/story-e6frea6u-1225983877669>.

¹⁴ Lee, FN, 2000, King Alfred the Great and Our Common Law, Queensland Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Brisbane, p. 1.

¹⁵ Courtois, S, Werth, N, Panne, J-L, Paczkowski, A, Bartosek, K, Margolin, J-L, 1999, The Black Book of Communism – Crimes, Terror, Repression, Harvard University Press, Massachusetts, p. 4.

¹⁶ The Australian Constitution, An Act to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia, see here http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/download.cgi/cgi-bin/download.cgi/download/au/legis/cth/consol_act/coaca430.rtf. Emphasis mine.

Senator Madigan's Bill seeks to honour God and our forefathers by curbing the shedding of innocent blood.¹⁷ No little girl should be murdered in utero due to the fact that she is a little girl. It is shameful that this practise occurs in Australia. This Bill seeks to redress the violated human rights of the little girls who are innocently slaughtered due to not being a boy. Our current Medicare funded abortion laws would have been reprehensible, primitive and barbaric to those who framed our nation's constitution. They would have rejected all forms of abortion and especially gender selective abortion on the basis that it would bring down the curses of Almighty God.

All laws are codifications of religious presuppositions

The argument that we ought to separate religion and law is false. Yes, there ought to be a separation of church and state, which is a different matter altogether. All laws are the codifications of a religious philosophy.¹⁸ It is impossible for a Bill to be religiously neutral. Every Bill put before our parliaments codifies the religious convictions of those who drafted it. This is unavoidable; laws codify a particular set of morals which are underpinned by a certain ethical worldview (i.e. a string of first premises) – aka religious convictions. The laws of a land identify or point to that land's god. So, please don't discount this or other submissions based on particular religious views. The debate is not between politics and religion or science and religion; rather it is over which religion will be codified in our nation's laws.

Taxpayer funded abortion is a violation of religious liberty

Our nation's Laws have historically been the codification of the Christian religion. This legal framework has produced one of the safest, wealthiest and freest societies in the world. Taxpayer funded abortion via Medicare is a violation of the religious liberty of those who are against this atrocity. No government should fund abortions from taxpayers. It is simply a violation of the religious liberty that our Australian Constitution seeks to protect. By forcing me (or any Christian) to fund abortions (via Medicare) the government is forcing me (and all Christians) to go against conscience and condone the murder of innocent life. This Bill needs to be commended as it seeks to slow down the flow of taxpayer money to abortion.

¹⁷ The Bible is clear that God hates the shedding of innocent blood:

"Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed..., for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD." (Leviticus 18:21).

"For God will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight." (Psalm 72:12-14)

"There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers." (Proverbs 6:16-19)

"Therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will give you over to bloodshed and it will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you." (Ezekiel 35:6)

¹⁸ This is unavoidable. All laws codify a set of beliefs about what is morally right and wrong, therefore all laws codify a religion. The argument is not over religiously neutral laws but rather which religion is to be codified.

Conclusion

Taxpayers in Australia should not be funding gender selective abortion. Terminating a baby's life on the grounds of gender (or any other reason) is a fundamental violation of a human being's right to life. The Australian Constitution seeks the God of the Bible's blessing on our land, murdering babies due to their gender seeks His cursing.

We urge the Senate: protect the lives of innocent little girls by voting in the affirmative for Senator Madigan's Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

Australia must actively seek to stop the war against women by:

1. All Australians (men in particular) should turn their hearts to the God of the Bible and seek His forgiveness for allowing gender selective abortion in this land. Men must then take an active stand against this attack on women;
2. Senators voting in the affirmative for Senator Madigan's Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013;
3. Bringing this despicable practice to light in Australia and taking measures to ensure it cannot be practiced. Those who seek to perform abortions on the basis of gender selection should be prosecuted.

We therefore urge the Senate again: protect the lives of innocent little girls by voting in the affirmative for Senator Madigan's Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

We urge you to seek the Almighty God's blessing, as the Constitution does, by ensuring that the Laws of our Land reflect the Law of the Scriptures (rightly interpreted); and protect the lives of the most vulnerable. If you do not support the abolishment of Medicare funded gender selective abortion – repent of your sins. Turn away from seeking to murder those who are weak and seek to protect them. As Senators you are charged by God Almighty to protect the weak in our society, we beseech you to do so.

Please contact us if you require any further information or to clarify any points.

Sincerely,

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