
Dear Senators,

Please find below my submission on the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

I believe that this bill should be fully supported by the committee of inquiry.

Abortion, or the deliberate killing of babies in the womb, is one of the most shameful aspects of our society. In terms of the numbers killed it eclipses the exterminations by Nazi and Communist regimes by several orders of magnitude.

This bill only addresses a very small aspect of this killing, the denial of government funding through Medicare for babies who would be killed for being the 'wrong' sex.

These sex selection abortions do occur in Australia. A horrifying case made it to the press a couple of years ago where a couple killed their healthy twin sons to 'balance their family' (<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/parents-want-right-to-choose-their-childs-gender/story-e6frf7jo-1225983877669>). And research in other western countries has also shown that the practice of killing preborn baby girls is extremely common amongst some Asian immigrant populations. One study showed 89% of girls were killed in this way! (<http://www.examiner.com/article/sex-selection-abortion-rampant-america>). No doubt there are many such cases here in Australia too, it's just that no statistics are recorded so the problem goes unseen.

The UN also recognises sex-selection abortions as a problem. In a 2011 report entitled 'Preventing gender biased sex-selection' it said: "renewed and concerted efforts are now needed by governments and civil society, including efforts to address the deeply rooted gender discrimination against women and girls which lies at the heart of sex selection." and "Addressing the phenomenon of imbalanced sex ratios at birth is a key opportunity for States to examine their current legislative framework" (http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241501460_eng.pdf).

I encourage the committee of enquiry to endorse these recommendations by fully supporting this bill.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Linasari Lean